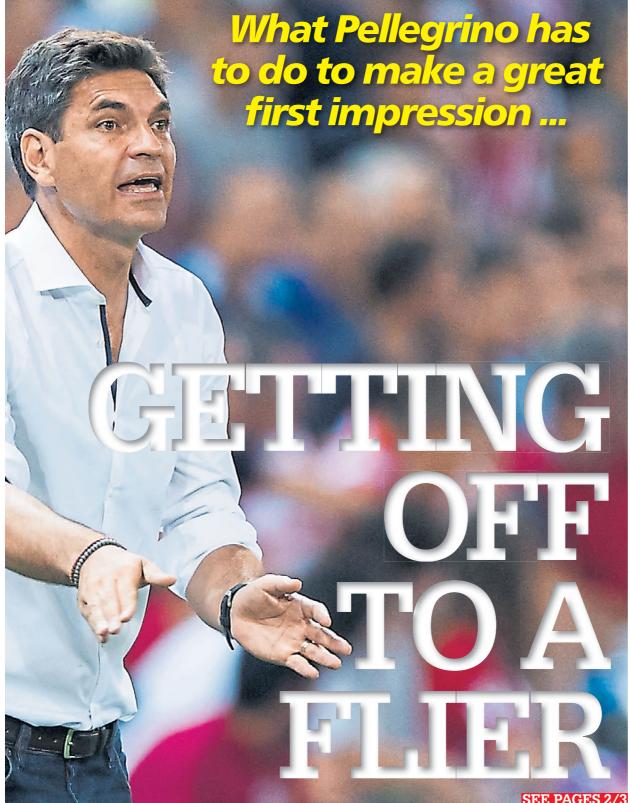


It's sad, but J-Rod has to leave St Mary's ...







'Dutchy' loving his new life at The Ageas Bowl

**SEE PAGE 31** 



Spitfires sign ex-Premier League man Yates

**SEE PAGE 17** 



Southampton parks football nostalgia pix

SEE PAGES 36-40

#### **Premier League ins** and outs 2017

#### **AFC Bournemouth**

In: Asmir Begovic (Chelsea, free), Frankie Vincent (Barnet, Free), Jermain Defoe (Sunderland, free) Out: Callum Buckley, Jake McCarthy, Matt Neale (All released)

In: Sead Kolasinac (Schalke, Free) Out: Yaya Sanogo (Released), Takuma Asano (Stuttgart, Loan)

#### **Brighton & Hove Albion**

In: Pascal Gross (Ingolstadt, Undisclosed), Josh Kerr (Celtic, Undisclosed), Mathew Ryan (Valencia, Undisclosed)

Out: Vegard Forren, Chris O'Grady (both released), David Stockdale (Birmingham, Free)

In: None

Out: Joey Barton, George Green, Christian Hill, Michael Kightly (All released), Josh Ginnelly (Lincoln,

#### Chelsea

In: None Out: John Terry, Alex Davey (both released). Asmir Begovic (Bournemouth, free), Dominic



Sunderland's Jermain Defoe

Solanke (Liverpool, tribunal), Juan Cuadrado (Juventus, £17m), Christian Atsu (Newcastle, £6.2m), Bertrand Traore (Lyon, £8.8m)

#### **Crystal Palace**

In: None Out: Kwesi Appiah (AFC Wimbledon, free), Luke Croll (Exeter, free)

In: Davy Klaassen (Ajax, £23.6m), Jordan Pickford (Everton, £25m rising to £30m).

Out: Tom Cleverley (Watford, undisclosed), Delial Brewster (Chesterfield, Free), Conor McAleny (Fleetwood, Free)

#### **Huddersfield Town**

In: Elias Kachunga (Ingolstadt, £1.2m), Laurent Depoitre (Porto.

Out: Kyle Dempsey (Fleetwood, undisclosed)

#### icester City

In: Harry Maguire (Hull, £17m)
Out: Marcin Wasilewski (released)

In: Dominic Solanke (tribunal), Mohamed Salah (Roma, £34m) Out: None

Continued on facing page



# Pellegrino has

e back end

#### Adam Leitch



Mauricio Pellegrino has officially started work as Saints boss - and has much to consider.

The Argentinian has been tasked with the job of moving Saints beyond what was achieved by Claude Puel - an eighth placed finish and the EFL Cup final, but with an underwhelming style of

Saints believe they have the right man for the job, but Pellegrino will not be underestimating the task at hand.

He has met many of his players as they returned for pre-season testing, but will start to get a real feel for things as the squad come back to prepare for the new campaign in the coming days.

Here at The Pink we take a look at some of the things Pellegrino will be trying to figure out to hit the ground running.

#### Squad strength

It's the item that is top of the agenda for fans during transfer windows, and it won't be any different for Pellegrino.

He will be quickly trying to draw conclusions and devising plans as to what he would like to try and do in the transfer market

Pellegrino will likely to try and look at the squad department by department, and of course there are a few which seem to require more work than others.

Saints are not going to splash out ludicrous sums of money on new players, and Pellegrino will have been made aware of that during the appointment process, but he will need some new faces.

The centre half situation clearly needs addressing, he might well want to try and add another central midfielder, while there is still a question mark over whether there is enough pace in the

Of course, all of this will be set in the context of potential player sales as well.

It seems as if most of the Saints squad have been linked with moves away from the club already this summer, and while the majority will clearly remain, things could hot up soon.

June is traditionally a very quiet month in the world of domestic football as players, agents, managers and chief executives take a

When they report back in July there is generally a ramping up of affairs, which builds as the season nears.

If big bids are to come in for the likes of Virgil van Dijk and Ryan 0 

Bertrand then you can expect them to probably arrive over the next few weeks.

6

There may also be a few players Saints are happy to move on, and it will be for Pellegrino to run the rule over them and agree he is content to try and wheel and deal to get the balance as he would like

#### Spirit

It didn't take somebody with

much insider knowledge to see that the spirits of the squad were clearly sagging towards the end of last season.

0

0

There were numerous factors that contributed, but Pellegrino needs to breathe some new life in the players and really inspire them.

There are a few who were looking towards the exit door, and if Saints hope to keep them, and as productive members of the squad, then it will be up to Pellegrino to sell them a vision they can buy into.

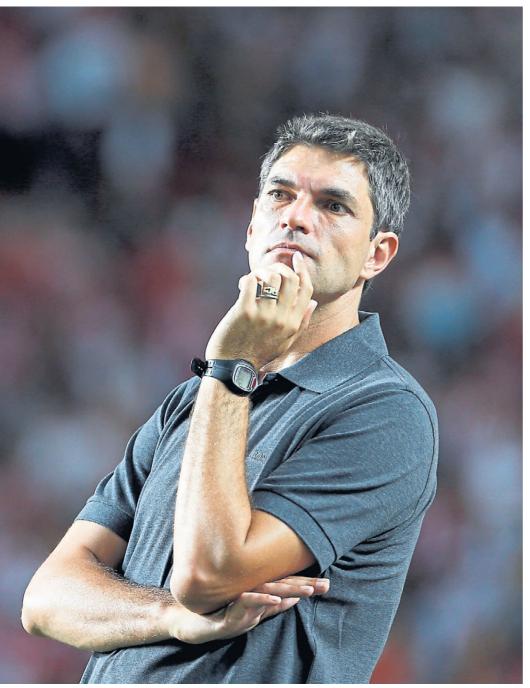
The back end of last season all fell so flat, but the new manager has to put impetus back into the dressing room.

Saints have a lot of good players, but are not so amazing they can rely on talent alone. They will need spirit and character and determination, and the inspiration Pellegrino can provide will be vi-

# **SAINTS**



# to unite Saints



tal for that.

#### Formation/style

Pellegrino has to really try and break the mould that was created by Claude Puel.

The thing that ultimately turned off a lot of the fans was the style of play under Puel.

Saints did put in some decent performances, and played some nice stuff. Sadly for Puel much of that happened away from home and, therefore, beyond the gaze of many Saints fans.

At St Mary's, especially towards the end of the season, some of the football was extremely dull and uninspiring, and the chronic lack of goals only underlined that.

Despite that, it was still successful up to a point, as it would be unrealistic to expect what Puel had to work with to finish above eighth Pellegrino needs to find a way of playing that provides far more entertainment, but cannot compromise results.

Saints fans complaining about dull football but finishing eighth are unlikely to be much more impressed with a thrill a minute relegation scrap.

Pellegrino has managed with the 4-2-3-1 formation in the past and is expected to use that as the base to build from heading into next season, with no doubt some other variations worked upon to throw into the mix.

In terms of style, Pellegrino's team at Alaves last season were not really too dissimilar to Puel's Saints, and they also struggled to score goals but achieved a good mid-table finish and got to a cup final

However, Pellegrino will surely have been made aware that things need to be different, and most fans will be hoping for some high tempo, high pressing, attacking football, especially without the need to conserve energy for European football.

#### Public profile

A major problem for Puel was really getting his message across. At first it seemed as if it was a bit of a language barrier, but as time went on it became clear that Puel was just a quiet and reserved character. That was just him.

But with his team reflecting his personality, and also the manager struggling to really explain himself or excite the fans, it proved very difficult for people to get behind him.

Pellegrino needs to address that

It's not to say he has to try and change himself, or be flamboyant or wildly controversial, but the way he presents himself in front of the media will be important. It is the prism through which the club communicates most of the time.

Certainly most will be hoping he will be more interesting, and also more open, as to add to Puel's problems he didn't give much away, which also gave little room for excitement to be generated.

Pellegrino arrives at St Mary's with a reputation of speaking good English and being an affable character, and he will need that in order to succeed.

#### **Targets**

Football is all about momentum, and it's important for the squad and the club as a whole to be pushing for a common goal.

It needs to be clearly defined

It needs to be clearly defined and more than just focusing on winning the next game.

It didn't always feel Saints had that last season, and they really do need it under Pellegrino.

People will get behind it and try and play their part if they can see they are working towards an amhitious objective

bitious objective.

Saints would like to get European football back to St Mary's again, so gunning for sixth-seventh would be an obvious potential target.

It won't be easy, of course, but at least it might work to inspire and unite players, staff and fans behind a common purpose, rather than continuing the recent sense of drift.

#### Premier League ins and outs 2017

from facing page

#### Manchester Ci

In: Bernardo Silva (Monaco, £42m), Ederson (Benfica, £35m)

Out: Willy Caballero (released), Gael Clichy (released), Jesus Navas (released), Bacary Sagna (released), Pablo Zabaleta (West Ham, free)

#### Manchester United

In: Victor Lindelof (Benfica, £31m) Out: Zlatan Ibrahimovic (released), Josh Harrop (Preston, Undisclosed)

#### lewcastle United

In: Christian Atsu (Chelsea, £6.2m) Out: None

#### Saints

In: None

Out: Jason McCarthy (Barnsley, undisclosed), Cuco Martina, Lloyd Isgrove, Martin Caceres, Harley Willard (all released).

#### Stoke City

In: Darren Fletcher (West Brom,

Out: Daniel Bachmann, Liam Edwards, Harry Isted, Shay Given, Joel Taylor (all released)



Cuco Martina

#### Swansea City

Out: Alex Samuel (Stevenage, undisclosed), Frank Tabanou, Marvin Emnes, Liam Shephard, Gerhard Tremmel (all released), Josh Vickers (Lincoln. Free)

#### Tottenham Hotspur

In: None Out: Charlie Owens (QPR, Free)

#### Watford

In: Tom Cleverley (Everton, undisclosed), Will Hughes (Derby County, £8m) Out: None

#### West Brom

In: None Out: Darren Fletcher (Stoke, free), Craig Gardner (Birmingham, undisclosed) Callam Jones, Jack Rose, Andre Wright (all released)

#### West Hai

| west Ham | In: Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester | `ity free)

Out: Alvaro Arbeloa, Kyle Knoyle, Sam Westley (all released), Stephen Hendrie (Southend, Free)

#### Fans have their say ...

Saints fans have been having their say on Mauricio Pellegrino's appointment on the Echo's website dailyecho.co.uk Here are a selection of the views so

far. Log on now to have your say ...

I see some are underwhelmed-the same ones who demanded the change. The most important thing is for everyone to get behind the new manager and support the team.

#### TrojanOtter

True, some are underwhelmed, as per usual. Some call them "neggies," but they are really the unsatisfied. Wouldn't it be great, though, if we would all do as you suggest and support our new manager and all our Saints? If that were to happen throughout next season, it could contribute towards more winning football being played and us fans being more entertained. The most "glass half full" of people could confidently predict, however, that those always unsatisfied Saints fans will continue being that way inclined! JustaSaintsfan

After so much turmoil now is the time for all Saints fans to unite behind MoPe, or whatever we are going to call him, and look forward to a new and exciting season. The board need to back him, not by



Virgil van Dijk

signing zillion pound players, but by not selling the creme of the crop. I get the argument that 70m for VVD gives us a huge war chest but because it's what we always do I think, on balance, we make a bigger statement by keeping him. Seedhouse the Unrepentant

Let's hope the initials MP are a good omen and that he sticks around longer than the other one. As always with these appointments, nobody is a guarantee of success and it's always a bit of a wild stab in the dark. Good luck MP2, we're right behind you!

Sounds good on paper, and engenders a better feeling than that at the time of Claude's appointment.

Positively4thstreet

Welcome to the club. Hope you're given the tools to do a great job and build on what I felt was a progressive season last year with the kids coming through. Will require backing on player retention and signings.

Curious, though, when you think

Curious, though, when you think about it - sacking and appointing someone on a long term vision when a takeover of the club could be about to go through.

Continued on facing page

# **SAINTS**



# A huge gamble

ot most of

**Saints have** 

#### Simon Carter



SAINTS have made a huge gamble

They took a long time, following the end of the 2016/17 season, to decide Claude Puel wasn't the manager they wanted.

Having axed the Frenchman, most supporters could have realistically presumed Saints had someone lined up take over ...

... In the same way that Mauricio Pochettino was parachuted into the St Mary's hot-seat - and it can be very warm indeed! - on the same day Nigel Adkins was controversially sacked by Nicola Cortese in January 2013.

Cortese in January 2013.

But they didn't. No-one was ready to walk in through the front door as soon as Puel was told he was being sacked.

Fans could also have realistically presumed Saints would be looking to bring in a bigger name boss than Puel, one with far more gravitas than Puel possessed.

And, hopefully, a better CV.

What the St Mary's faithful couldn't have expected was for Puel to be replaced by a 'like for like' appointment.

Yet there is an argument that is what has happened, though.

Look at last season.

Puel guided Saints to an eighth placed finish in the Premier League, and also reached the League Cup final. On the brink of a rare major piece of silverware, they lost 3-2 to Manchester United. No disgrace in that, though - the difference between the two teams was Zlatan Ibrahimovic and United were paying him over \$300,000 a week.

Meanwhile, in Spain, Pellegrino took Alaves to a ninth placed finish in La Liga. They, too, reached a domestic cup final - the Copa Del Rey - and lost 3-1 to Barcelona. Certainly no disgrace in that, either - two of Barca's marksmen were Lionel Messi and Neymar. God knows how much they are paid each week, but it's a lot more than the Alaves squad.

So, Puel and Pellegrino boasted fairly similar records. Alaves punched above their weight - they even won a La Liga game at the Nou Camp - while Saints again proved themselves one of the 'best of the rest' outside of the established elite

One thing that let down Puel was Saints' poor home form.

They didn't score at all in their final five home league games, and ended 2016/17 having netted just 17 home goals in 19 league matches. That was the second lowest in the division, with only rock bottom Sunderland having scored



less (16).

Pellegrino's record was not much better, however. Alaves only managed 19 goals in their 19 home league games. That, too, was the second lowest in La Liga. Only rock bottom Grenada (17) scored fewer

Overall, Puel's Saints scored 41 league goals and conceded 48 in their 38 games. Pellegrino's Alaves also scored 41 and conceded 43.

Like for like, therefore?

Pellegrino at least won more points - 55 to Puel's 46 - and had two more wins than the Frenchman. He only lost 11 games as well, compared to Puel's 16.

Of course I am not suggesting Pellegrino is not capable of doing a good job at St Mary's. By all accounts, he worked wonders at Alaves, but they weren't watched by 30,000 fans every other week demanding to be entertained and possessing increased expectations.

All I am doing is laying out the bare statistics.

It goes without saying he will be tasked with trying to improve on his predecessor's 'achievements'.

There was not much affection for Puel from the stands, but he still finished eighth and reached a major cup final.

If you are comparing CVs - and as we are dealing with elite league football managers, it's only fair that we do so - then Puel boasts a better one.

# **SAINTS**



# for Les to take ...



He has managed a side, Lyon, to the semi finals of the Champions League, Pellegrino has not.

In fact, the Argentine has only had one season of European experience to his name.

That came in his first major managerial role, again in La Liga with Valencia.

Appointed in the summer of 2012, Pellegrino took charge of his club's first five Champions League group matches.

He did well, too, winning three in a row after starting with a loss at Bayern Munich. Pellegrino then oversaw a 1-1 home draw with Bayern.

The fact he didn't get the chance to manage any more CL ties was because he was sacked after just 14 league games in charge.

After a mixed start, when he won five of his first 12 games, Pellegrino's Valencia were thumped 4-0 at Malaga.

That set alarm bells ringing, and the following week's 5-2 home loss to Real Sociedad proved to be his last game in charge.

There were mitigating circumstances - Valencia were 1-0 up just before half-time when they were reduced to ten men through a sending off.

Despite that, and even though at the time he had only lost one more La Liga game than he had won, Pellegrino was sacked after just 14 league matches.

It goes without saying that a sacking on your CV, though it looks bad, is hardly terminal.

After all, Pochettino had been sacked by Espanyol two months before he walked into St Mary's at a time when a lot of Saints fans would have struggled to know who he was.

Cortese and Les Reed certainly gambled in bringing in Pochettino, and it was a gamble that paid off. The Argentine is now one of the most in demand managers in world football.

Credit, therefore, to Cortese and Reed for that one.

Credit also to the latter for persuading Ronald Koeman to rock up at St Mary's in the summer of 2014. Again, it would prove an inspired appointment.

Before that, Alan Pardew and Nigel Adkins were successful.

Pardew treated 50,000 Saints fans to a great Wembley day out in the JPT final, while Adkins built on the platform his successor had laid and masterminded back to back promotions.

Since 2009, therefore - eight years ago - Saints have only made one 'bad' managerial appointment out of five.

And I've put quote marks around the word 'bad' because if finishing eighth and getting to a cup final was a 'bad' season for Saints, then what was Pochettino's eighth place and no sniff of a cup run in 2013/14?

To misquote Meatloaf, four out of five ain't 'bad' - it's far better than most clubs' ratio, after all. But Saints are in an industry where they need to keep on making successful appointments. Clubs in the Premier League can ill afford one poor appointment. Saints got away with one last season. They certainly cannot afford two in a row.

Reed will be hoping Pellegrino is far more of a Pochettino clone than a Puel one, at least in terms of attempting to win the supporters over by playing more attacking football. That is a minimum guarantee, as why else axe Puel?

Yes, it can be argued that every managerial appointment is a gamble, at whatever level of the beautiful game - be it the Premier League or the Hampshire League.

Yet some are bigger gambles than others.

Pellegrino's managerial league experience in Europe totals 52 La Liga games. Pochettino had been in charge of Espanyol for almost four years. Puel managed in France virtually non stop since 1999, prior to coming to Saints.

This is why Saints have made a huge gamble.

#### From facing page

If we haven't won the league and at least one cup by Christmas, scoring 400 goals in the process, then the lynch mob be on his back just like they were with CP.

InsideOutCa

Some will complain, no doubt, (Going for the cheap option, why didn't we get a big name, will he be like CP etc etc). Personally, I feel positive, he apparently is a good friend of the other MP, so if he plays the same way, I won't complain.

ChristchurchSaint

Welcome MP, but I think you may need a little more time to evaluate our squad. Some of those players, even with some fine-tuning, will be unable to deliver continued success as they are just not good enough. Hence the 46 points last season.

Good luck and just tell us fans like it is - we like it that way.

#### Trespas

Not blown away by the appointment. However, if it's not inspiring let's hope it inspired. Not long till the football starts now.

Jesus 02

A huge welcome MP. Delighted. Notice the statement talks about high paced attacking football. Well done Saints.

#### footballfan 123

I wish you all the best, Mr Pellegrino.



Claude Puel

on the pitch, make hunger, urgency and passion show through in victory and defeat. Lets not roll over and die. Let's not get caught on the break after trying to break down a 10 man wall. Let's not faff about on the 18 yard line then go backwards or drop an aimless cross to Mr nobody in the box. Above all else, make the run in after Christmas one to maximise and aim for more than 50 noints.

#### under the west stand

I've got a very good feeling about this appointment, very excited now for the season ahead. Good luck Mauricio.

#### They Don't Like It Up 'Em

Looks a good fit for the club. Glad it's been sorted early - will be interesting if he feels we need to spend. Looks like one of theses Manager that believes in hard work on and off the pitch. Hope all the players are in tune.

I am just glad, Les didn't sell or buy any player before appointing a new manager this time, I am sure he learned a thing or two from last season....hopefully he will be allowed to buy his own players...

Continued on page 5

#### from page 5

EXCELLENT choice IMHO.
Contemporary manager, excellent tactician and versatile. He's employed lineups with 3 in the back as well as 4.

Chicago Saint

Good news and he has a decent record. If we sell VVD for 70 million to Chelsea and get 15 for Jayro, I hope he gets the whole amount to bring in 4 new faces too. I'd like to keep VVD but for 70 million I would be OK to sell him.

Circa2017

Great news. After a year in decline my club is finally going forward again. Pellegrino is his own man, no one will be allowed to undermine him and he will have the respect of the players immediately.

#### Ian Byrne

8th, a Wembley final, top 7 for most shots at goal, top half for crosses and forward passes.
Decline? We all look forward to a massive improvement this season, no Europa League distractions so with an easy start we should be top 4 after 6 games. No decline this season for sure.

#### Miltonarche

17 points less than last year and the lowest total goals scored by Saints I can remember, on top of a boring high possession but no penetration style of football and only using one striker at home. Poor communication and failure to engage the fans.

Need I say more !!



#### Mauricio Pellegrino.

Welcome aboard mush. Unify the fans behind you as they have been split unlike any of the recent seasons. Hopefully we can get back to enjoying the football.

I was happy to give Claude another season but it wasn't to be. Those that wanted him gone were not unhappy with 8th and a Wembley final, it was the fact they were finding most of the football boring. But Liverpool away in the semi will remain with me forever so thanks for that Claude.

#### Seedhouse the Unrepentant

Welcome Mauricio! Despite possibly a worse record, this does fill me with far more optimism than when Puel was appointed.

Welcome MP, your target is entertaining football to get the fans we lost last season back into the ground, oh and get them singing again, unfortunately we made a mistake with our last appointment and we need to make amends!

Northam Roa

The guy has my full backing, but unless he is backed sufficiently by the club, he will struggle to beat 8th and a cup final and ultimately it comes down to where we finish as a club. Hope we replace Long, Rodriguez, Fonte and Clasie and retain VVD, Cedric and Bertrand.

# **SAINTS**



# Manuel's destiny

I am 63 years of age and a supporter of Southampton Football Club for as long as I can remember

I live in Vitoria in Northern Spain, 100m from Estadio de Mendizorozza, home of Deportivo Alaves, and I would often walk past the new manager of the Saints —a big guy, and very unassuming.

Mauricio Pellegrino arrived at Alaves exactly one year ago to oversee 17 new players, mostly in their early twenties and on loan. For me, this was not surprising, because the day they won promotion I said to my Spanish friends 'unless they bring in new players they do not have a chance of surviving'.

Pellegrino did an amazing job, very quickly forging a team spirit that enabled them to ascend to great heights, and prove the doubters wrong, including myself.

Many people on social media have been comparing Mauricio Pellegrino to Claude Puel, because of the emphasis placed by both managers on defence, and also the lack of goals scored by both teams last season. In addition, their teams finished 9th and 8th respectively, and reached a cup final

I just don't see it that way. Firstly, the season before last Saints finished 6th, whereas, the newly promoted Deportivo Alaves began their campaign favourites to be relegated, so their starting positions were very different.

And, yes, like all good managers, both created tight defensive units. However, that's where the comparison ends.

For Mauricio, tightening the defence, did not mean instructing his players 'to park the bus'. When they won possession, his team would break out of defence with speed, often the midfield players venturing beyond the forwards, thereby creating choices for the player on the ball to make a penetrating pass to unlock the opposition's defence.

This was very unlike Puel's tactics last season when, all too often, our players, upon finding themselves in an attacking position, would pass the ball sideways, or backwards, because they appeared too frightened to commit players to attack, in case they lost the ball and conceded.

If Mauricio had Southampton's forward line, Alaves would have scored more goals, to be sure.

If comparisons are to be made, it is fair to say Pellegrino approaches the game in a similar way to Pochetino.

Whenever I watched Alaves, I noticed how, when they lost possession in attack, they would close down the player with the

ball in packs of three or four, to win the ball back immediately.

They showed no respect when playing the 'big boys' away. For example, at Atletico de Madrid, where twice they came back from the dead to earn a draw.

It was a great game, because Alaves were prepared to commit numbers to attack, knowing they could lose the game by an even greater margin, if they were to lose the ball and suddenly find themselves on the back foot.

The work ethic of his players

was truly amazing.

In an electrifying, hostile atmosphere, Mauricio Pellegrino appeared totally unfazed on the touchline, and the calmest person in the stadium.

He instils in his team a 'no fear' approach to big games. How often did Saints freeze last season, with the exception of Liverpool, when we knew we were going to be up against it?

Doubts have been raised about Pellegrino's credentials, because he was sacked from Valencia after seven months.

At the time, Valencia were 330 million euros in debt and, as a result, had become a selling club. In addition, many of the playing staff thought they were better than what they were.

Unlike Koeman, who was driven out of Valencia because he was disliked immensely by the board, players, and fans alike, the majority of the fans remained on Mauricio's side when they were on a losing streak, and thought it was the President who should go.



# **SAINTS**



# was Saints!



And why did Mauricio choose to leave Alaves in May of this year? Well, it is not clear.

I can only think he knew he would have to perform the miracle all over again with many of his players returning to their parent clubs, and perhaps he also sensed this was his best opportunity to move on to a bigger club.

Who knows. Even when he resigned he may have been aware of the possibility of coming to Southampton.

I have a feeling that contrary to

what we know and understand, his appointment did not happen overnight. After all, this is the Southampton Way —Les Reed claims to have a list of players and managers to pursue should a vacuum be suddenly created —one this time he created, rather than the other way round.

In conclusion, I believe it is Mauricio Pellegrino's destiny to come to Saints.

We are a perfect fit, and while he knows the job will take him out of his comfort zone - manag-

ing in the Premier League, and all the stresses that comes with the job - he is not scared of falling flat on the his face.

He may come across as a gentle giant, but do not be mistaken - his demeanour hides a will of iron, and our players will learn very quickly what is expected of themothing less than 100 per cent and united we stand, divided we fall.

And also...how to get the ball in the back of the opposition's net!

Greg Southwell, Vitoria, Alava, Spain.

#### Shades of Real Madrid as Josh is linked with Tottenham

REAL Madrid are the football club all the others want to be. European Champions 12 times and home to a cadre of the world's finest players, Real's superiority extends beyond the perimeters of the pitch.

Extracting a first-rate footballer from his current club is a tricky business - but the Spanish giants are very good at it, writes PAUL McNAMARA.

Their annual play for a global superstar has become as much a part of the sporting summer as golf's Open Championship and an England batting collapse. President Florentino Perez got the

President Florentino Perez got the ball rolling in the early noughties, ushering in Real's galacticos era by implementing a policy that dictated the club must land the world's best player every 12 months: by fair means or foul.

Zinedine Zidane, David Beckham and Brazilian great Ronaldo were all signed in relatively straightforward deals; vast sums of money twinned with the players' respective desires to make the switch greasing the wheels on those transfers.

Real, then, probably thought a move for Cristiano Ronaldo in 2008 would be pretty plain-sailing. Instead, they were met with an incandescent Sir Alex Ferguson insisting he "would not sell Real Madrid a virus".

Six months later, Ronaldo was in the Bernabeu, decked out in gleaming white kit and being unveiled as the Spaniards' world-record £80million capture

Simply, if Real Madrid want one of your footballers, expect their tanks to come rolling onto your lawns to destructive effect.

The pernicious process often takes the form of a legendary Madrid figure being wheeled out to effuse about the talents of the club's latest target.

Tottenham fell victim to this ploy in 2013. Current Real boss Zidane was working as an adviser to Perez when he publicly gushed about Gareth Bale.

"I've been watching Tottenham for the very reason Gareth Bale is playing," said the Frenchman, before claiming Bale had only two superiors – Lionel Messi and Ronaldo – in world football. Asked if Bale could succeed in the Spanish capital, Zidane, with all the subtlety of his 2006 World Cup final headbutt on Marco Materazzi, responded, "He is more than good enough... all talented players can go to Real Madrid."

Bale was a Real Madrid player three months later, bought for a world-record £85m.

All this came to mind when a couple of Spurs old boys this week urged their former club to sign Bournemouth striker Joshua King.

striker Joshua King.
Okay, Micky Hazard and Tim
Sherwood don't share the imperious

Zidane's clout. Nor do they work for Tottenham – but the message was unequivocal.

A UEFA Cup winner with Spurs in 1984, Hazard claimed King would be "perfect cover" for Harry Kane.

"He scores goals, he's quick, he's powerful, he's strong," said Hazard – all of which rather begs the question of why King would want to be anybody's locum.

Sherwood, meanwhile, recently freed from his role as Swindon Town's director of football following the Wiltshire club's relegation to League Two, used some of the additional time he has on his hands to offer his two pennies' worth.

On Tottenham's need for a striker, ex-Spurs boss Sherwood said: "They can't buy one who expects to be first-choice... for me, it would be the one at Bournemouth. Josh King has loads to offer.

"He runs in behind, he holds it up, he is strong, he is still developing and he would be a perfect player for the Tottenham squad."

King recently admitted in an interview that it was impossible to avoid the speculation surrounding his future. Reading Hazard and Sherwood

Reading Hazard and Sherwood qualify their praise with mentions of being "cover", and perfect for Tottenham's squad might convince the Norwegian he is right to stay exactly where he is.

#### Absolutely fantastic

King was absolutely fantastic when operating as Cherries' lone striker for the final three months of last season, producing a wealth of performances very few fans or pundits realised he had in him.

Two people apparently not taken aback in the slightest by King's ability to disdainfully bully Premier League defences, week in, week out, were the player himself and boss Eddie Howe.

Dissecting his latest goalscoring deeds, King would routinely explain he had simply needed to be free of injury and playing regularly in order for his talent to be set free.

Twelve goals in 14 games as Cherries' centre-forward stand up his argument.

With a fair wind behind him, imagine what the 25-year-old could achieve under Howe next season – his back end of 2016-17 strike rate would translate into a 33-goal return across

a whole campaign.
Then, perhaps, King would be ready to spread his wings.

Manchester United, after all, couldn't keep Ronaldo forever.

But were King to move to Tottenham – or any other elite club – right now, he would be taking an enormous and unnecessary gamble, just as his career has lift off.



Josh King should stay at Cherries for the sake of his career.

#### **U21 ratings**

England Under-21s went out of Euro 2017 after a semi-final penalty exit to Germany in Tychy.

They lost 4-3 in the shoot-out having escaped the group stages for the first time since 2009.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at how Aidy Boothroyd's squad rated in Poland.

Jordan Pickford: Now a £30million goalkeeper after a transfer to Everton, the 23-year-old saved a penalty against Sweden and looked comfortable in the group stages. One penalty stop in the shoot-out against Germany - replicating his spot-kick save in the first group game against Sweden - was sadly not enough. 7/10

Mason Holgate: The Everton man, not a natural right-back, often struggled going forward but played his part in keeping two clean sheets in the group games. One crucial challenge against Sweden's Carlos Strandberg stood out. 6

Calum Chambers: His Arsenal career stalled after being loaned out to Middlesbrough but the the ex-Saints defender excelled in Poland and will have given Arsene Wenger food for thought as he considers his Gunners future. 8

Alfie Mawson: Swansea have a bargain of a centre-back who started the season losing 4-2 at Ipswich with



**Calum Chambers** 

Barnsley. Passionate and committed the 23-year-old was the rock in a defence and did well against Germany. 8

Ben Chilwell: The Leicester leftback had a slow start but grew into the tournament, starring against Poland, but now needs to play next season - for the Foxes or anyone else. He scored a confident penalty against Germany. 7

James Ward-Prowse: A final Under-21 tournament for the captain but he struggled early on against Sweden and Slovakia before finding some form to set up Nathan Redmond's winner against Slovakia. Scored a great penalty against Germany. 7

Nathaniel Chalobah: A groin injury hampered him after he limped off against Poland in the final group game. Before than had been assured and comfortable but missed two great chances against Germany. 7

Nathan Redmond: His penalty miss - his last kick for the Under-21s - sent England out but it should not just be about that for the Saints man. He scored his 11th Under-21 goal against Slovakia and led by example 7

Continued on facing page

# **SAINTS**



# Saints stars have

### Sam **Waddington**

With the World Cup now less than a year away, a number of Saints' current English players will be hoping they are on the plane to Russia.

Sam Waddington has taken a close look at those who have the best chance of being in England manager Gareth Southgate's final squad.

#### RYAN BERTRAND

Having made a good impression in the recent internationals, following a successful season at St Mary's, the left-back has a great chance to play in his first World Cup finals.

Tottenham's Danny Rose, who was the regular prior to injury, probably remains first choice but Bertrand, who now has 14 senior caps, has certainly given Southgate food for thought.

Playing for one of the elite - with regular exposure to the Champions League - probably gives Rose the edge over the Saints star.

Rose should be the only obstacle for Bertrand, though, with ex-Saint Luke Shaw regularly struggling with injuries and Aaron Cresswell not quite offering the same attacking threat

same attacking threat.

CHANCES – Highly likely

#### FRASER FORSTER

Saints' undoubted No 1 was selected for the 2014 World Cup squad, but he didn't see any action.

He was also taken to the European Championship finals two years later, but again Joe Hart played all the games.

Now Forster has a fight on his hands to make the trip to Russia.

The 29-year-old will

The 29-year-old will need a strong season as the likes of Stoke's Jack Butland - now

back after a long-term injury -Burnley's Tom Heaton and England's most expensive goalkeeper Jordan Pickford will also provide fierce competition to Hart.

It might have been telling for Forster that in the recent friendly against France, when Hart was left out, Southgate gave Heaton and Butland 45 minutes each, and Forster was left kicking his heels on the bench.

Again. CHANCES – Possible

#### NATHAN REDMOND

If the winger can have an

even more fruitful campaign in 2017/18, there is every chance he could be on his way to Russia.

Especially given he is well suited to playing in a three pronged attack, if that is what Gareth Southgate decides to opt for.

The 23-year-old was Saints' top scorer in the league last term with seven goals and his direct approach was regularly a danger to defences.

What is lacking in comparison to other forwards in his position,

like Raheem Sterling and Adam Lallana, is international experience for the senior side.

But that could easily change with plenty more friendlies and qualifiers to come over the next year.

Redmond was certainly a regular under Southgate for the under-21s, and the fact he played almost 40 games at that level for England shows how highly he is regarded.

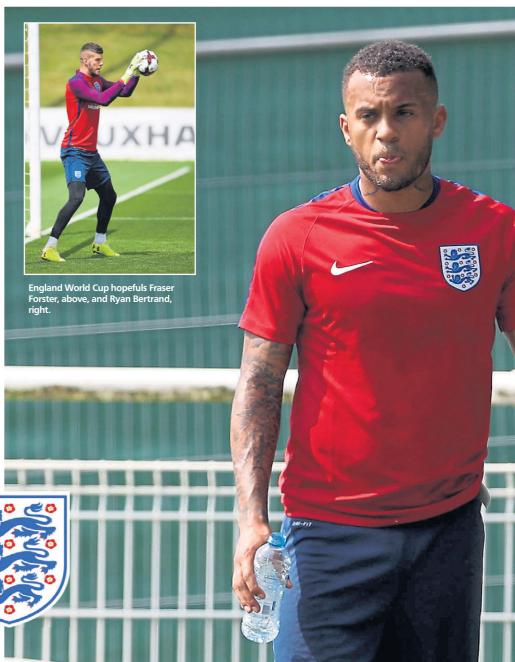
Southgate also handed him his senior England debut against

Germany earlier this year, and therefore Redmond has the best possible manager in situ that he could wish for

Now he has to bounce back from the anguish of missing a penalty for the under-21s against Germany earlier this week.

Southgate knows how he will be feeling - having been there himself in an even more high profile situation - so could offer a few consoling words of advice.

CHANCES - Possible



# **SAINTS**



# World to play for

# Twelve months on, five reasons to be cheerful for English football future ...

It has been a turbulent year since Roy Hodgson's England were bundled out of Euro 2016 by Iceland in Nice.

In another 12 months, all being well, they will have the chance to redeem themselves at the World Cup and here the Sports Pink assesses five reasons to believe they can salvage some pride in Russia.

#### YOUTH MOVEMENT

There was little tangible public interest in England's Under-20 squad when they departed for South Korea last month but by capturing the Three Lions' first global trophy since 1966, they provided football's unexpected feelgood story of the summer.

The leap from age-level success to senior stardom is a big one but Paul Simpson's squad contains a handful of highly-rated talents eager to become first-team regulars at their clubs next season. Tellingly, there should be significant fan support for the likes of Dominic Calvert-Lewin, Ademola Lookman and Cherries midfielder Lewis Cook to get game time.

Dominic Solanke, meanwhile, has swapped

Dominic Solanke, meanwhile, has swapped Chelsea for Liverpool and as the competition's player of the tournament has followed in the footsteps of Diego Maradona, Lionel Messi, Luis Figo, Sergio Aguero and Paul Pogba.

There are signs of life at Under-17 and Under-21 level too, raising expectations for the future.

#### THE TOTTENHAM TWO

Spurs have been well represented in England squads over the past couple of years but two names stand out as top-tier stars - Harry Kane and Dele Alli. Both were part of the Euro debacle and could easily have found themselves weighed down by the fallout. But they emerged as even more effective Premier League players in 2016/17. Kane retained his golden boot, improving his previous tally from 25 to 29, while Alli flourished with a remarkable 18 goals from midfield. The duo are often most dangerous in tandem, combining with ruthless efficiency



Dele Alli hitches a ride from Saints goalkeeper Fraser Forster

around the penalty box.

Watching them in action together is a salve for any despondent supporter.

#### SOUTHGATE'S RHETORIC

Talking a good game never won a game of football, never mind a World Cup, but Gareth Southgate's public pronouncements have shown him to be, at the very least, fully aware of the challenges he faces in the top job.

He has drawn a bead on the national side's dreadful record in knockout games, questioned the 'island mentality' of players unwilling to take chances overseas and shown an admirable willingness to continue playing elite opposition in friendlies, regardless of the effect on his win percentage.

He will need to string together some better results on the field if his strong words are to remain credible but nobody can doubt he understands the magnitude of the task.

#### KEEPER CONUNDRUM

A year ago the prospect of Joe Hart losing his number one status would have been unthinkable, even after his less than stellar showing in France.

Now England boast an enviable array of challengers for the gloves, with arguably their strongest crop in a generation. Jack Butland is well fancied to rival Hart sooner rather than later, while Tom Heaton and Fraser Forster have their own champions and the uncapped Jordan Pickford recently tempted Everton to part with the best part of £30million.

It all adds up to a much-improved picture given Saints keeper Alex McCarthy, who did not play a single minute of Premier League football last season, was called up by Sam Allardyce for England's first post-lceland clash in Slovakia.

#### **END OF THE CELEBRITY CULT**

Southgate would doubtless give his right arm to have a peak-era Steve Gerrard, Ashley Cole, Frank Lampard, John Terry or Wayne Rooney at his disposal but, in carefully removing the last of those big names from the picture, he has ensured an England squad of equals.

For too long the burdens of expectation have fallen too heavily on the shoulders of too few, with the biggest names rarely dealing with the strain successfully.

In recent get-togethers media appearances have been split more equally than before, all squad members have encouraged to take leadership positions and the door has been open to those at less fashionable clubs - see Jake Livermore's surprise recall and nods for Michael Keane, Ben Gibson, Nathan Redmond and James Ward-Prowse.

What has been lost in winners' medals has hopefully been replaced by collectivism and unity of purpose.

#### **U21s ratings**

from facing page

John Swift: The Reading man - a former Southampton Tyro League starlet with Pace Youth - started the competition on the bench but was brought in against Slovakia and kept his place for Poland. Cool and collected when he played he also came off the bench against Germany. 6

Lewis Baker: He scored a well-taken penalty against Poland and now must build on his time on loan at Vitesse to make his mark in England even if it is not at Chelsea. Solid if not spectacular. 6

Will Hughes: He completed an £8million move from Derby to Watford while he was in Poland and replaced the injured Chalobah against the hosts. The midfielder excelled against Germany. 7

Demarai Gray: A frustrating season at Leicester ended with a fine tournament as he finished England's top scorer with two goals. He has grown into the international set-up and now needs to play at the



James Ward-Prowse.

Foxes. 8

Jacob Murphy: Winger Murphy played a crucial role in the comeback against Slovakia and scored a crucial goal against Poland. The Norwich man enhanced his reputation, despite struggling against Germany, and will be in demand this summer. 7

Tammy Abraham: The striker worked tirelessly up front and grabbed a goal against Germany but missed his penalty as England went out. The Chelsea man is now expected to join Swansea on loan. 7

Cauley Woodrow: A fleeting appearance against Slovakia allowed the Young Lions to run down the clock. 6

Dominic Iorfa: The Wolves defender got a taste of the action in extra-time against Germany. 6

Not used: Angus Gunn, Jonathan Mitchell, Kortney Hause, Jack Grealish, Rob Holding, Matt Targett, Jack Stephens

#### **JAMES WARD-PROWSE**

With England seeming to be lacking midfield options at the moment, Ward-Prowse would be a useful squad player.

Being comfortable on the ball and skilled at taking set pieces. he certainly has attributes that could come in handy for tournament football.

Last season he contributed to eight league goals and seems to be growing in maturity year on year.

So much so that he gained his first senior call up in March-like Redmond, making his debut against Germany - and captained England Under-21s at the Euros.

Not that being skipper of his country at that level is any guarantee of progression. After all, West Ham's Mark Noble captained England in the 2009 U21 Euro final, and he has never won a senior cap.

But Southgate has already

shown he is not afraid of giving youngsters a chance to impress if they have the quality. CHANCES - Possible

#### CHANCES - Possible CHARLIE AUSTIN

The Saints forward will surely have to be in great form next season to gain his place in the squad.

His predatory instincts in the box mean he will score goals but when you consider what other English strikers can offer as well, for example Harry Kane and Jamie Vardy, there are far more suitable, experienced (at international level) options.

Austin has never won a senior England cap, but he was included in Roy Hodgson's squad in May 2015 after scoring regularly for relegated QPR in the top flight.

But with Manolo Gabbiadini now at St Mary's, Austin may not even be guaranteed his place in Saints' starting XI under new boss Mauricio Pellegrino.

CHANCES - Unlikely

# Hillsborough - the numbers

Here are some key numbers surrounding Britain's worst sporting disaster at Hillsborough

#### 96

Liverpool fans who died as a result of the Hillsborough tragedy on April 15 1989.

#### 87

Liverpool fans declared dead inside Sheffield Wednesday's stadium.

#### 38

Those aged 19 or under who died.

#### 38

Fans injured in a crush on the Leppings Lane terrace at the 1981 FA Cup semi-final between Spurs and Wolves.

#### 23

Turnstiles for 24,200 Liverpool supporters at the 1989 semi-final.

#### 60

Turnstiles for 29,800 Nottingham Forest supporters at the opposite end of the stadium.

#### 10.100

Capacity designated on



Hillsborough's safety certificate for the Leppings Lane terrace, which remained unchanged for 10 years despite the introduction of pens and a sterile "no man's land" area.

#### 2,000

Supporters who entered exit Gate C from 2.52pm after match commander David Duckenfield ordered it be opened to relieve congestion at the Leppings Lane turnstiles.

#### 6/8

Fans in central pen 3 of Leppings Lane at 2.52pm, as estimated by the Health and Safety Executive after the disaster.

#### 678

The safe capacity of central pen 3, according to expert engineer John Cutlack who gave evidence at the fresh inquests.

#### 1,430

Highest estimate by Mr Cutlack of fans in pen 3 at 3.03pm.

#### 2

League matches that Mr Duckenfield attended in the police control box at Hillsborough after being appointed match commander less than a month before the disaster.

#### 737

Days passed between the inquests beginning in Warrington on March 31 2014 and the jury being sent out to retire to consider its conclusions on April 6 2016.

# **SAINTS**



# Why J-Rod has to

#### Adam **Leitch**



If and when Jay Rodriguez confirms his move away from Saints in the coming days, it will mark a sad end to what was once an exciting chapter in the club's history.

Wind back to the start of April 2014 and it seemed that Rodriguez had the world at his feet, and anything was possible for Saints.

Both the club and the player were riding the crest of a wave.

Saints were back at the top level of English football and, under Mauricio Pochettino, playing thrilling footballing, and winning football too.

For Rodriguez, it was to be the best time of his career, at least to date

He found himself in a system and a way of playing that seemed to be impossible for opponents to stop.

It felt as if the only way was up. By the time he walked out at the Etihad Stadium to face Manchester City on April 5, 2014, Rodriguez had already scored 17 goals that season, made his England debut and seemed a shoe-in to go the World Cup.

He had fired five goals in his previous four games - the winner at Crystal Palace, one in a 4-2 home success against Norwich, another in a 3-2 loss at Tottenham and two in a superb 4-0 thrashing of Newcastle.

It was hard to imagine that things could really get much better for the man Saints recruited from Burnley for just £7m in 2012. Sadly, they were about to get

much worse.

#### Lowest of lows

From the highest of career highs to the lowest of lows in a moment. It's the story of a few unfortunate footballers, and it befell Rodriguez on that day in Manchester.

He was to be stretchered off

He was to be stretchered off the pitch at the Etihad in agony. Scans later revealed that the initial fears were correct, and he had ruptured his cruciate ligament.

Clearly this was a huge setback, but even then it wasn't apparent just how bad it might be.

An ACL tear is a serious injury, and for a player that relies on a turn of pace and agility running with the ball, it is impossible to know whether they can really ever come back at the same level. In truth, few ever do.

But even so there was still optimism. Rodriguez was young and strong and determined.

What followed was a depressing catalogue of problems that has

still yet to find a happy ending over three years later.

Complications with the initial operation meant more surgery further down the line, comebacks were short lived and resulted in more injuries, and foot surgery

In the end 2014/15 proved a complete write-off, and 2015/16 was so stop-start that it seemed every step forward was quickly followed by two in the opposite direction.

Last season underlined the problems Rodriguez really faces at this stage of his career.

He can stay fit for sustained pe-

riods of time now, but he has to rediscover, or, more precisely, reinvent himself.

You never lose class, and Rodriguez has plenty of that. That is something strongly in his favour.

But at Saints, where those memories of his swashbuckling runs and goals are still fresh enough in the memory, it is the end of the

It would have been better allround had Rodriguez left a year ago when it first seemed as if he was going to depart.

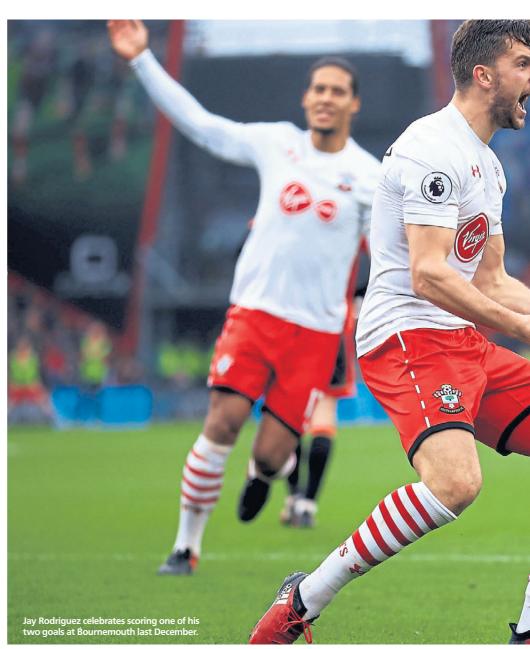
Even then it felt as if a fresh start might be good for all parties,

but then Rodriguez popped up with a goal off the bench against Sunderland at a time Saints were struggling and it was too hard a move to sell.

So Rodriguez ended up staying and, in truth, largely wasting another season he could have got back on his feet.

It was only largely wasting because he did still have some bright performances, notably his two goals at Bournemouth, but even that again proved to be somewhat of a false dawn.

Rodriguez has got to the stage where he no longer plays that





# quit Saints



deep, breaking, running position in which made his name at Saints.

The impression is that the injuries have taken their toll and he cannot do that any longer. Whether he agrees is probably a moot point.

Instead, he has found himself limited to a solo striking role, something he can do but which doesn't play to his strengths, or

his former strengths.

Quite what Tony Pulis has in mind for him at West Brom we shall wait to see, but the fact he has been after Rodriguez for so long suggests he is a man with a

Rodriguez really does have to go now, as sad as that is.

He is stale and stagnant at Saints, and he needs a mental as well as physical refresh. It is in everybody's interest that it hap-

#### Celebration

And if he goes on and does really well at The Hawthorns, it should be something worthy of a celebration amongst Saints fans rather than recriminations as to why he was sold when he still had something to offer.

Sometimes in life people go through hard times and need to make a change.

It's the only way to progress.

Rodriguez seems to be at that point now, and with Manolo Gabbiadini, Charlie Austin, Shane Long and Sam Gallagher as striking competition at Saints, his game time would be limited again next season at St Mary's.

It's sad that a time with such promise will end on a disappointing note, but at least Saints and Rodriguez will always have the memories and the chance to progress on their own.

#### Hillsborough-timeline of a 28-year search for justice

Here are the milestones that ended in an inquest jury deciding that the deaths of 96 football fans at deaths of 96 tootpall tans at Hillsborough were unlawful:

April 15 1989 - Ninety-six football fans are fatally injured in a deadly crush as Liverpool play Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup semi-final at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough

April 1989 - Lord Justice Taylor is appointed to conduct a public inquiry into the disaster, with the West Midlands Police force later instructed to examine the role of their South Yorkshire counterparts.

August 4 1989 - An interim Taylor Report is published into the disaster after the submission of 3,776 written statements of evidence, 1,550 letters, 71 hours of video footage and the oral evidence of 174 witnesses

January 1990 - The full Taylor Report finds the main reason for the disas is the failure of police control and the decision to open Gate C without blocking the tunnel to central pens, calling them "blunders of the first

April 18 1990 - South Yorkshire Coroner Dr Stefan Popper begins the first inquests in Sheffield. A 3.15pm cut-off point is imposed so inquiries into lack of emergency response ruled

March 28 1991 - After the longest inquest in British history to date lasting 90 days, a verdict of accidental death is returned by a majority verdict

November 1991 - Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, who was in charge of the police operation on the day of the disaster, resigns on a police pension due to ill

March 1993 - Families seek a judicial review of the inquest, which is initially dismissed, then appealed, then rejected by the Royal Courts of Justice, which rules the original inquests should stand.

May 1997 - New Labour government Home Secretary Jack Straw appoints Lord Justice Stuart-Smith to conduct a 'scrutiny of evidence', but he concludes new inquests are not warranted.

November 2006 - Anne Williams, whose son Kevin, 15, died in the disaster, submits her case to **European Court of Human Rights** 

March 2009 - The ECHR rules Mrs lodged earlier and is 'out of time'.

April 15 2009 - Minister Andy Burnham is barracked while speaking

at the 20th anniversary memorial at Anfield. He raises the matter at Cabinet and three months later the Home Office announces full disclosure of all information to be looked at by an Independent Panel.

September 12 2012 - A Hillsborough Independent Panel (HIP) report is critical of blame put on to fans. Prime Minister David Cameron offers in the Commons a "profound apology" for the "double injustice".

October 12 2012 - The Independent Police Complaints Commission launches its biggest ever investigation into police in the UK, centred on officers' conduct over Hillsborough.

December 19 2012 - The High Court quashes the accidental death verdicts in the original inquests and orders new ones. The same day, Home Secretary Theresa May announces a new criminal probe to investigate "all of the people and organisations involved - before, on, and after" the

March 31 2014 - New inquests begin at Birchwood Park, Warrington. Sir John Goldring reads the names of the 96 in court before swearing in a jury of seven men and four wome

January 25 2016 - After 280 days, the new inquests reach the summing up by the coroner, Sir John Goldring. He tells the jury they will answer questions in 14 sections about how the deaths were caused, including a possible verdict of unlawful killing based on whether Mr Duckenfield's acts or omissions amounted to gross negligence manslaughter.

April 26 2016 - The inquest jury delivers its verdict, and finds that the 96 Liverpool fans were unlawfully killed. It finds that blunders by South Yorkshire's police and ambulance services "caused or contributed to" their deaths, and exonerated Liverpool fans of wrongdoing. South Yorkshire Police Chief Constable David Crompton admitted the force got the policing of the match "catastrophically wrong" and "unequivocally" accepted the inquest jury's conclusions.

April 27 2016 - Mr Crompton is suspended in the wake of the Hillsborough inquest findings by South Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Dr Alan Billings, who said he had no choice but to act
"based on the erosion of public trust
and confidence". Dr Billings said there was "clearly a difference of perception" between Mr Crompton and the families of the victims in relation to questions being asked over whether the fans were to blame.

June 28 2017 - The Crown Prosecution Service charge six people with offences relating to the tragedy 28 years earlier.



Memorabilia at Anfield on the Hillsborough Memorial.

# PINK

# Epic finals at SW19 ...

Andy Murray is aiming to win his third Wimbledon title in 2017, while Roger Federer again looks to collect his eighth crown and Novak Djokovic his fourth SW19 title

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the previous ten men's finals.

#### 2008

Roger Federer, aiming to win the title for the sixth year running, lost an epic five setter to Rafael Nadal. The Spaniard, beaten in five sets in the previous year's final at SW19, triumphed 6–4, 6–4, 6–7(5–7), 6–7(8–10), 9–7.

#### 2009

Federer only had to wait 12 months for his sixth title, though, beating Andy Roddick in another epic encounter 5-7, 7-6(8-6), 7-6(7-5), 3-6, 16-14.

#### 2010

Rafael Nadal claimed his second Wimbledon title by defeating Tomáš Berdych 6–3, 7–5, 6–4.



**Andy Murray** 

#### 2011

Novak Djokovic denied Rafael Nadal a third title, beating him 6-4, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 to win his first Wimbledon title.

#### 2012

Roger Federer claimed his seventh title in ten years by beating Andy Murray 4–6, 7–5, 6–3. 6–4.

#### 2013

Andy Murray became the first Brit to win the Wimbledon men's title since Fred Perry in 1936 by overwhelming Novak Djokovic in straight sets 6-4, 7-5, 6-4.

#### 2014

Noval Dkokovic denied Roger Federer an eighth title in a memorable five-setter 6-7(7-9), 6-4, 7-6(7-4), 5-7, 6-4.

#### 2015

Same two players as 12 months earlier, and the same result as Novak Djokovic claimed his third SW19 title by beating Roger Federer 7-6(7-1), 6-7(10-12), 6-4, 6-3.

#### 2016

Andy Murray won his second title in three years by beating surprise finalists Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-6(7-3), 7-6(7-2).

# Federer aiming for record eighth title again



Roger Federer.

Roger Federer is again aiming to become the first man to ever win eight Wimbledon singles titles.

He is currently joint top with seven alongside William Renshaw and Pete Sampras.

Renshaw won all his titles way back in the 1880s - including six in a row between 1881-1886 inclusive -while Sampras won in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Federer's run of victories began in 2003 and he emulated Bjorn Borg's feat of winning five successive titles in the Open era, before losing the 2008 final. He has since won in 2007, 2009 and 2012. Borg won all five of his titles

from 1976-1980 inclusive. Since the early 1980s, three other men have won three titles -Boris Becker, Novak Djokovic and McEnroe

The German became the youngest ever men's winner, aged 17, in 1985 and he retained his title in 1986. He also won in 1989.

Novak Djokovic won in 2011, 2014 and 2015, while McEnroe lifted the silverware in 1981, 1983 and 1984. He also lost to Jimmy Connors in the 1982 final. Martina Navratilova holds the record for the most women's singles titles. She won an astonishing nine times - in 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1990.

Helen Wills Moody won eight titles - in 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1938 - while two far more recent stars have seven each. Steffi Graf won in 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995 and 1996 while Serena Williams triumphed in 2002, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2016

# Wade's route to glory

It is 40 years since Virginia Wade marked Wimbledon's centenary and the Queen's Silver Jubilee by lifting the Venus Rosewater Dish.

Wade, who also won the US and Australian Open titles during her career, remains the last home winner of the women's singles trophy.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at her route to glory in 1977.

#### 1st round - beat lo Durie 6-2 6-2

In the opening round, Wade found herself in a battle of the British generations against 16-year-old Durie, and experience won out comfortably.

#### 2nd round - beat Betsy Nagelsen 6-2 6-1

Next up for third seed Wade was 20-year-old American Nagelsen, who went on to reach the Australian Open final in 1978. It was another one-sided clash as Wade dropped just three games.

#### 3rd round - beat Yognne Vermaak 6-1

Wade moved into the fourth round for the loss of only 10 games after another comprehensive win against South Africa's

#### 4th round - beat Mariana Simionescu 9-7 6-3

The first test for Wade came against Romanian Simionescu, who was briefly married to Bjorn Borg in the 1980s. Wade survived a long first set - tie-breaks at 6-6 were not introduced until 1979 - on her way to the quarter-finals.

#### Quarter-finals - beat Rosie Casals 7-5 6-2

Wade was pitted against sixth seed Casals, a feisty American best known for her role in the



Virginia Wade holding her trophy aloft after she won the Wimbledon singles championship in 1977.

fight for gender equality, in the last eight. Again the first set was close before Wade pulled away.

#### Semi-finals - beat Chris Evert 6-2 4-6 6-1

In the semi-finals, Wade faced the formidable Evert, the defending champion and top seed and already a six-time grand slam singles champion at the age of 22. But the home favourite justified her confidence, saying: "I

knew I'd had some good matches against her and I'd played well against her and I could beat her if I did the right things. That was huge."

#### Final - beat Betty Stove 4-6 6-3 6-1

It seemed written in the stars that Wade would win the title, but standing in her way was powerful Dutchwoman Betty Stove, playing in her first grand slam singles final. Stove took the first set but Wade was supreme in the latter stages, winning nine of the last 10 games. "She was one of these very awkward players because she was so tall and strong," said Wade. "I was prepared for anything and the thing I knew most of all was that I had played Betty a lot of times and I'd fought back from being in quite a big deficit. I sort of felt like I'd earned the right to beat her."

# Llorente facing fitness race for Saints opener



Fernando Llorente.

Swansea are hopeful Fernando Llorente will be available for the start of the new season after breaking his arm on holiday.

Spain striker Llorente suffered the injury in a cycling accident on a family holiday, understood

But Swansea are optimistic that Llorente will be available for their first Premier League game at Saints on the weekend of August 12-13.

'Fernando has suffered a small fracture of the bone in his lower arm." a Swansea spokesman

said.

"The club will have to tailor his pre-season training for approximately 30 days. While he will be able to do gym work he will not be able to go out on to the

"But if his rehab goes well, we are optimistic that he will be available for our first league game.

Llorente's absence would be a huge blow for Swansea, who relied on the World Cup winner's goals to avoid relegation last

The 32-year-old scored 15 goals following his £5million move from Sevilla the previous summer

Swansea's players return to pre-season training on Monday and will embark on a tour of the US before the domestic campaign

They expect to have England Under-21 striker Tammy Abraham, on loan from Chelsea, on board by then following the sale of Bafetimbi Gomis to Galatasaray.

#### Williams' domination

The Williams sisters have dominated the Wimbledon ladies singles title in the 21st century -winning 12 times between them. Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the last 10 ladies finals at

#### 2007

Venus Williams won her fourth title by beating Marion Bartoli (France) 6–4, 6–1.

Venus Williams wins for a fifth time, beating sister Serena 7–5, 6-4.

#### 2009

The roles are reversed 12 months later as Serena defeats Venus to claim her third title.

Serena Williams retains her crown with a straight sets victory over Vera Zvonareva 6–3, 6–2. The Russian - who was 21st seed at Wimbledon - also reached the US Open final that year, and lost that to Kim Clijsters 2–6, 1–6.

#### 2011

Czech Petra Kvitová won her first Grand Slam title when she



Serena Williams

beat Maria Sharapova 6-3, 6-4.

Serena Williams emulated her sister Venus by winning her fifth Wimbledon - defeating Pole Agnieszka Radwa ska 6–1, 5–7, 6–2.

#### 2013

Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli caned German Sabine Lisicki 6-1. Slam title. Two years earlier, Lisicki had become only the second woman in history to reach the semi finals after being granted a wildcard.

#### 2014

Petra Kvitová romped to a second win in four years, hammering Canadian Eugenie Bouchard 6–3, 6–0.

Serena Williams won for a sixth time, defeating surprise Spanish finalist Garbine Muguruza 6-4, 6-4.

#### 2016

Serena Williams yet again wins, beating German Angelique Kerber 7–5, 6–3. It was her 22nd career Grand Slam, and her third of 2016. She added a 23rd earlier this year when she beat sister Venus in the Australian Open

# Big profits on ex-Chelsea stars

Liverpool have signed former Chelsea winger Mohamed Salah for a fee understood to be close to £35million.

The Egypt international, who has spent the last two seasons playing for Roma, left Stamford Bridge on a permanent deal last summer for less than half that

Here, the Sports Pink looks at other players Chelsea could have received more money for.

#### Glen Johnson

A decade ago, England international Johnson was on his way to the south coast, leaving Chelsea to join Harry Redknapp's Portsmouth for around £4m. The fee was a couple of million less than the Blues paid West Ham for the defender in 2003 and considerably less than the amount Pompey secured when selling him on in the summer of 2009. Chelsea were interested in re-signing the rightback and had an offer accepted. but Johnson opted to sign a fouryear contract with Rafa Benitez's Liverpool for around £17m.

#### Lassana Diarra

Diarra is another former Chelsea player who Portsmouth made a sizeable profit on. The France midfielder departed the Blues for an undisclosed fee - reported to be as low as £2million - in August 2007 and arrived at Fratton Park five months later via a short stay at Arsenal. Pompey, who paid the Gunners around £5.5m, almost quadrupled their money a year later, selling Diarra to La Liga giants Real Madrid for close to

#### Nemanja Matic



Mohamed Salah in action for Chelsea

Chelsea admitted making a mistake with Matic. After letting him go to Benfica as a makeweight in the deal to sign Brazil defender David Luiz on the final day of January in 2011, they had to shell out around £21m to bring him back three years later. The Serbian midfielder made just two substitute appearances in the Premier League during the first spell. He has featured more than 150 times in all competitions since returning, winning two league titles and

the League Cup.

The left-back is currently at Crystal Palace after former Eagles boss Sam Allardyce was prompted to pay around £14m for his services in January. Van Aanholt's multi-million pound move from Sunderland to Selhurst Park came two and a half years after Chelsea let him go for around a tenth of that figure.

#### Patrick van Aanholt

The Holland international made

only two league appearances both as a substitute - at Stamford Bridge. He was loaned out numerous times, playing for Coventry, Newcastle, Leicester and Wigan, as well as spending two seasons with Dutch club Vitesse, before his £1.5m switch to the Stadium of Light.

#### Kevin De Bruyne

The creative midfielder became the fifth most expensive player in history when Manchester City paid Bundesliga club Wolfsburg around £55m in August 2015. Just over 18 months earlier, De Bruyne had been allowed to join the German side for less than a third of that figure by former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho. At the time, many thought the Blues had done remarkably well to receive a reported £18m for someone who had made only three Premier League appearances, but the Belgian has since developed into one of European football's top talents.

#### Mohamed Salah

Signed for around £11m from Swiss club Basle in the 2014 January transfer window, Salah was a bit-part player for Mourinho's Chelsea. He managed two goals in 11 outings in his first season and then, after appearing only eight times the next campaign, was loaned to Fiorentina. He impressed in Florence and spent 2015/16 with Serie A rivals Roma, prior to a permanent move to the Italian capital last summer with Chelsea receiving £15m. The 25-year-old will play at Anfield next season after Jurgen Klopp was persuaded to part with a large chunk of his transfer budget to bring him back to England.

#### **Boothroyd** ... in his own words

Aidy Boothroyd saw his England Under-21 side dumped out of Euro 2017 by Germany on penalties on

Tuesday.
The Young Lions lost 4-3 from the spot following a 2-2 draw after extra time. Here, the Sports Pink lists Boothroyd's best quotes over the course of the campaign.

ON CRITICISM OF HIS STYLE... "I have proved to myself and everybody else I can work in a way that's perhaps more attractive than been portrayed in the past. But I can't live my life worrying about what people think of me. If I did that I'd be looking over my shoulder every two minutes."

ON AIMING TO WIN EURO 2017. "We don't see everything now as a bonus. We are not tourists when we get here, we are here to win it. It's not about enjoying the experience, it's about winning."

ON THE STRUGGLES OF YOUNG PLAYERS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE...

"The problem we have is that we get players to a certain ceiling and then they can't get into Premier players are bought, that's a problem, but we can't do too much about that."

ON ENGLAND'S SUMMER SUCCESSES...



Aidy Boothroyd.

"It is all part of a long-term plan. The building of St George's Park, the players in terms of personnel in important positions. There has been some investment into it. I think it is starting to bear fruit."

ON HIS MATCH-DAY SHOES .. "I got them out of TK Maxx and as soon as I put them on, Nathan Redmond looked at them and said, 'Strange shoes, boss', So they are a nice little distraction.

ON ENGLAND'S TRIP TO

AUSCHWITZ...
"It was something that we wanted to do, it's a poignant and quite an upsetting place but it's somewhere that everybody should visit to see what happened there."

ON JORDAN PICKFORD'S £30M MOVE TO EVERTON AND SWEDEN PENALTY SAVE...

"He has had quite a week. Most people would struggle to deal with what's happened and have some sort of dip but touch wood he doesn't. I thought he was excellent.

ON ENGLAND'S PENALTY EXIT TO

"The fact we went down and came back says a lot to me about the character of the players. But obviously we've got to keep practising those penalties."

ON GERMANY GOAL KEEPER JULIAN POLLERSBECK'S PENALTY NOTES IN HIS SOCK... "We had an iPad so I guess we won

that battle, using technology."

# NK T

# **Redmond latest**

#### Adam Leitch



There are few things more certain in life than England losing a penalty shoot-out to Germany... or indeed any other nation.

Aidy Boothroyd's Under-21 side became the latest victims as they were beaten 4-3 on spot-kicks by their German counterparts in the semi-finals of Euro 2017 in Poland following a 2-2 draw.

A World Cup semi-final defeat to West Germany in 1990 kicked off a horrible run for England. Here, The Pink looks at the Three Lions' and Young Lions' spot-kick woes - and a couple of others involving English players.

#### WORLD CUP 1990

England's penalty shoot-out hell began at Italia 90 when West Germany beat Sir Bobby Robson's side in the semi-finals. Despite a good start to the shoot-out with Gary Lineker, Peter Beardsley and David Platt all scoring their penalties, England could not hold their nerve. For every penalty England scored the Germans netted their own. Stuart Pearce then had his penalty saved by Bodo Illgner, before Chris Waddle blasted his kick way over the crossbar as England crashed out.

#### **EURO 96**

England claimed their first and so far only shoot-out success in the quarter-final against Spain, as Pearce redeemed himself for his 1990 miss by holding his nerve at Wembley, while David Seaman's save from Miguel Angel Nadal's kick took them into the last four. But the penalty jinx returned against Germany, with Gareth Southgate's weak effort saved by Andreas Kopke as the semi-final shoot-out entered sudden death. Andreas Moller scored Germany's final penalty as England failed to bring an end to 30 years of hurt.

#### WORLD CUP 1998

England drew 2-2 with Argentina in their second-round match, with the initial 90 minutes most memorable for a stunning solo goal by Michael Owen and the sending-off of David Beckham. Argentina scored the first penalty in the shoot-out and Alan Shearer equalised. Things were looking promising when Seaman saved Hernan Crespo's effort, but Paul Ince's subsequent spot-kick was also saved. Two more penalties were converted by each side, but after Argentina went 4-3 ahead. David Batty was unable to con-



#### **EURO 2004**

Another 2-2 draw, this time with Portugal, meant a shoot-out, and this time England made a dreadful start as Beckham blasted the first kick over the bar. England scored their next two and Portugal missed one which meant England were back in the game. After

John Terry, Owen Hargreaves and Ashley Cole all bagged their penalties the score was 5-5. Darius Vassell then had his penalty saved and the Portuguese goalkeeper Ricardo put the ball past Seaman and England were out once again.

#### **WORLD CUP 2006**

Two years later at the World Cup in Germany, England and Portugal met again in the quarter-final. A goalless draw meant that England were once again facing penalties. Portugal scored their first and then Frank Lampard's effort was saved. Portugal went on to miss their next two, with Hargreaves scoring, but Steven Gerrard was unable to press

# PINK

# in a long line ...



home England's advantage as his shot was saved. Portugal's Helder Postiga then netted his penalty, and Jamie Carragher missed. Cristiano Ronaldo sealed England's exit from the spot.

#### EURO 2007 - UNDER-21

Separating England and Holland in the semi-finals of the 2007

Under-21 European Championship proved difficult, with the Young Lions eventually beaten 13-12 on penalties. The game had ended 1-1 after extra-time, with Leroy Lita giving England a halftime lead. After injured defender Steven Taylor had limped up to score a spot-kick, Anton Ferdinand, who had converted one penalty hit the crossbar with a second, with Gianni Zuiverloon firing home the winner for Holland

#### **EURO 2012**

A battling goalless draw against Italy meant England went to a quarter-final penalty shoot-out once more. After Mario Balotelli and Gerrard began confidently, it was advantage England after Riccardo Montolivo struck wide and hopes grew when Wayne Rooney put away his effort. However, Ashley Young rattled the bar and then Cole's effort was saved by Gianluigi Buffon, while Andrea Pirlo and Antonio Nocerino scored before Alessandro Diamanti gave the Azzurri an unassailable 4-2 lead to confirm England's elimination in familiar circumstances.

#### 2012 Olympics

Ok, this was Great Britain losing on spot-kicks in the quarter finals, rather than England. But it was still an Englishman - Daniel Sturridge - who missed the decisive penalty as Stuart Pearce's side lost 5-4 in a shoot-out against South Korea after a 1-1 draw.

Sturridge missed the vital last kick, allowing Celtic's Ki Sung-Yueng to send South Korea into a last-four meeting with Brazil.

Aaron Ramsey had converted a penalty in the 36th minute to cancel out Ji Dong-Won's opener on 29 minutes. However, the Arsenal midfielder missed from the spot when he had the chance to put Britain in front in normal time.

That Ramsey should score in the shoot-out just heightened the frustration for a capacity crowd.

#### Euro 2017 - UNDER-17

Losing at penalties is seemingly endemic in the English system, and in May the under-17s lost in the final to Spain on spot-kicks. Aidan Barlow tucked the first penalty away but he was the only England player to convert as Rhian Brewster and Joel Latibeaudiere both missed. Spain's Victor Chust scored the final penalty to make it 4-1.

England had earlier been leading leading six minutes into injury time when Nacho Díaz headed in a leveller. The game went straight into a penalty shootout, with England's heads clearly scrambled, having been seconds away from winning the tournament in Croatia.

#### EURO 2017 - UNDER-21

There was more semi-final heartbreak against Germany after Nathan Redmond's shootout miss sent England Under-21s out of Euro 2017. Demarai Gray had cancelled out David Selke's opener before Tammy Abraham put England ahead just after the break in Poland. Felix Platte's fine header sent the game into extra-time, with England hanging on before penalties. All eyes were on £30m goalkeeper Jordan Pickford and he kept out an effort from Yannick Gerhardt, but Julian Pollersbeck denied Abraham and then saved Redmond's spotkick as Germany won 4-3.

#### De Boer is tasked with reducing 'anxiety'

Frank de Boer has been instructed to end the "anxiety" and "nearunbearable pressure" that descends every year at Crystal Palace. The Dutchman was unveiled as the

The Dutchman was unveiled as the club's new manager this week, signing a three-year contract to succeed Sam Allardyce following the latter's resignation.

He had been on Saints' shortlist to replace Claude Puel, before Mauricio Pellegrino emerged as the club's No 1 target.

De Boer has already revealed plans to implement a more expansive brand of football but arrives with chairman Steve Parish desperate to avoid the relegation struggle they have experienced every season since their promotion in 2013.

Parish spoke at the conclusion of the 2016/17 campaign about the need for Palace to finish in the top half and at De Boer's unveiling said: "The pressure (of relegation) is almost unbearable.

"Everyone says you get the parachute money which was always 55 per cent of the TV money, so it used to be £10million, then £20million, now it is £45million or £55million. Where will it go in the next TV cycle?

"Some people in this room won't



Frank De Boer

have a job if we get relegated: we have 400,000 fans on our database, the fans' hopes and dreams, fears and jobs rely on it. I have been here seven years; everything hinges on it.

"(Club co-owners) Josh (Harris) and David (Blitzer): for them the stress is almost unbearable, but it is our job to see through those moments and to steer us away from

"It is the worst feeling in the world, I won't lie to you. We're steadily improving the club and to lose it all in one season would be terrible.

"Frank's number one brief is to reduce mine and every supporters' anxiety."

De Boer, 47, was in contention to join Everton last summer until Ronald Koeman's appointment, and also rejected the Liverpool job in the summer of 2012 before it was offered to Rrendan Rodgers.

offered to Brendan Rodgers.
"Yes (I rejected it) as I just signed a new contract at Ajax at that moment," the former Ajax and Inter Milam manager explained.
"I said I was not finished with Ajax

"I said I was not finished with Ajax at that time. (I have no regrets) at all. I had a fantastic time (at Ajax)."

Of his new job, he said: "It is an exciting project. To be a solid, stable club in the Premier League, there is a lot to lose and there is a lot to gain. I am excited."

De Boer was sacked as Inter boss just two days before the club lost in the Eruopa League at St Mary's last

### **NON LEAGUE**



#### PRE SEASON FRIENDLIES 2017

Saturday, July 1 Salisbury v Portsmouth.

Wednesday, July 5 Folland Sports v Blackfield & Langley

Thursday, July 6 Chichester City v Salisbury

Friday, July 7 Fawley AFC v AFC Totton Winchester City v Gosport Borough

Saturday, July 8 Andover Town v Highworth Town Bush Hill v Brockenhurst Eastleigh v AFC Wimbledon Hamble Club v Pagham Havant & Waterlooville v Portsmouth

Monday, July 10 Moneyfields v Brockenhurst

Tuesday, July 11 AFC Totton v Aldershot Town Basingstoke Town v Eastleigh Winchester City v Hungerford Town

Wednesday, July 12 Fawley AFC v Blackfield & Langley Folland Sports v Moneyfields Salisbury v Oldham Athletic

Thursday, July 13
Baffins MR v Gosport Borough

Saturday, July 15
Andover Town v Downton (Sparsholt College)
College)
Blackfield & Langley v AFC Totton
Eastleigh v Portsmouth
Havant & Waterlooville v Farnborough
Moneyfields v Gosport Borough
Winchester City v Hanwell Town

Tuesday, July 18
AFC Totton v Havant & Waterlooville
Andover Town v Salisbury
Blackfield & Langley v Eastleigh
Hamble Club v Godalming Town
Newport IW v Portsmouth (7pm)
Winchester City v Sholing

Wednesday, July 19 Folland Sports v Gosport Borough.

Thursday, July 20 Bemerton HH v Gosport Borough

Friday, July 21 Gosport Borough v Lymington Town Hythe & Dibden v Brockenhurst Sholing v Whitchurch Utd (7.30)

Saturday, July 22 Andover Town v Basingstoke Town Bashley v Winchester City Brockenhurst Development v Hamworthy Rec Res Eastleigh v Newport County Havant & Waterlooville v Sutton Utd Horndean v Gosport Borough

Tuesday, July 25
Andover NS v Andover Town
Bashley v Wimborne Town.
Bemerton HH v AFC Totton
Blackfield & Langley v Winchester City
Downton v Salisbury
Fareham Town v Moneyfields
Horndean v Havant & Waterlooville
Laverstock & Ford v Brockenhurst

Wednesday, July 26 Fawley AFC v Sholing Folland Sports v Gosport Borough

Thursday, July 27 Bemerton HH v AFC Totton

Friday, July 28 Eastleigh v Sheffield Utd Gosport Borough v Bognor Regis Sholing v East Cowes Vics (7.30) Team Solent v Thatcham Town (3G)

Saturday, July 29 Andover Town v Hedge End Rangers (Sparsholt College) AFC Totton v Chichester City Brockenhurst Development v Shrewton

Shrewton
Hailsham Town v Brockenhurst
Hamble Club v Moneyfields
Hythe & Dibden v Lymington Town
Stockbridge v Totton & Eling
US Portsmouth v Blackfield & Langley
Wimborne Town v Gosport Borough
Winchester City v Alresford Town

Tuesday, August 1 AFC Stoneham v Eastleigh Moneyfields v Winchester City

Thursday, August 3 Brockenhurst Development v Boldre Royals

Saturday, August 5 Salisbury v Basingstoke Town Winchester City v Farnborough

# Keeper Charlie returns on season-long loan



Charlie Searle

GOALKEEPER Charlie Searle has returned to Salisbury on a season-long loan from Havant & Waterlooville.

He replaces fellow loanee keeper Alex Bass, who has gone back to parent club Portsmouth.

Searle is a popular figure at Old Sarum, having excelled in the reborn Wiltshire club's inaugural season of 2015/16.

His strong displays in goal helped them to the Sydenhams Wessex League title and the semifinals of the FA Vase.

Whites' boss Steve Claridge

had hoped the 21-year-old would return last term, but the Hawks wanted Searle available for cup games should the need arise.

Instead, he spent 93 days on loan at Salisbury's Southern One South & West rivals AFC Totton before returning to Havant at the end of February.

Under this latest loan arrangement with Salisbury, the Hawks have agreed that Searle will be available to the Whites for all cup games.

"We never wanted Charlie to leave so it is great to welcome him back," said Claridge.

"He is a good, young goalkeeper available at the right price and we'll be looking for him to perform as he did for us the season before last."

Searle joined up with the Whites as they began pre-season training this week ahead of the first pre-season match at home to League One new boys Portsmouth today (Saturday, July 1, 3pm).

It will be Pompey's first game under the tenure of new boss Kenny Jackett.

# Ex-Spitfire Ryan signs for the Gulls

Wendy Gee



FORMER Eastleigh goalkeeper Ryan Clarke is back in football.

The 35-year-old has signed for the Spitfires National League rivals Torquay United.

Bristol-born Clarke was in the Spitfires' goal when they beat Torquay 3-0 at the Silverlake Stadium last October, but it turned out to be a rolleroaster campaign for the ex-Oxford United and AFC Wimbledon man

Having been installed as club No1 by Ronnie Moore – a move that led to Ross Flitney moving on – he was then sidelined by a long-term elbow injury.

By the time he was fit again, Moore had been replaced as manager by Martin Allen and, after Allen himself had left the club, Clarke initially started as firstchoice 'keeper under Richard Hill

#### Delighted

He then lost his place to ex-Barnet man Graham Stack and Clarke's seven-month stay came to an end in April by mutual consent.

Torquay, who recently lost American Brendan Moore to League One outfit Rochdale, are delighted to have Clarke on board at Plainmoor.

"Ryan is a proven goalkeeper at this level and levels above," said Gulls boss Kevin Nicholson. "In such an important position on the pitch, Ryan was the outstanding candidate in a strong field.

"He had a stop-start season last



24 Sept 2016 - photo Stuart martin - Eastleigh V Sutton United - New Keeper Ryan Clarke

year and is determined to come to a club where he can play, develop and lead.

"He fits all my critieria for character and attitude."

Bristol-born Clarke, who had a trial at Torquay early in his career, has made in excess of 500 senior appearances, including 267 in six successful years at Oxford from 2009 to 2015.

He joined Eastleigh from AFC Wimbledon last September, becoming Moore's first signing for the club.

### ON LEAGUE





**Rvan Bird** 

# **Bird arrives in Dover**

FORMER Eastleigh striker Ryan Bird has joined the Spitfires' National League rivals Dover

The 29-year-old spent the first half of last season at the Silverlake, scoring two league goals - the first of which was against Dover in a 4-2 home loss.

Though Bird scored four times in an FA Cup tie against North Leigh, he was considered surplus to requirements by Martin Allen and moved to Newport in January.

He promptly scored on his debut in a 3-1 home win over Hartlepool, a result which eventually proved crucial as the Welsh club stayed up at Pools' expense.

Former Pompey striker Bird who scored for Cambridge United when they beat Gosport Borough

4-0 in the 2014 FA Trophy final - netted six goals in 19 appearances for Newport in all.

Dover are in need of new firepower after losing Ricky Miller - the National League's top scorer in 2016/17 - to Peterborough United.

Bird's former Eastleigh colleague, defender Connor Essam, was signed by Dover earlier this summer.

# Ex-Spurs winger joins the Spitfires

Simon Walter



EASTLEIGH have signed former Pre-

mier League winger Mark Yeates. The 32 year-old has signed a two-year deal and brings with him some experience of playing in the top flight with Tottenham Hotspur.

After a nine-match loan spell at Brighton, Yeates made his Spurs debut in May 2004 in a 2-0 win away to a Wolves side for whom Paul Ince was sent off, with the goals scored by Jermain Defoe and Robbie Keane.

He played the full 90 minutes along-side the likes of Christian Ziege and Jamie Redknapp, before going on to play three more games for Spurs as a

After a season-long at Colchester, he moved to the Essex club a year later for the chance to play regularly in the

for the chance to play regularly in the Championship.
Following Colchester's relegation, England manager Gareth Southgate took him to Middlesbrough for £500,000 in the summer of 2009.

He also played in the Championship for Sheffield United and Watford but it was after dropping into League One with Bradford City that he scored the most memorable of his 51 goals in 448

league and cup appearances. Yeates was on the scoresheet when Bradford stunned Chelsea in the FA Cup third round at Stamford Bridge in January 2015, scoring his side's fourth goal in injury time as the Bantams came back from 2-0 down to win 4-2. He moved to Oldham the follow-

ing summer before dropping down to League Two to play for Blackpool last

season, ending it with a loan spell at Notts County.

Now he is aiming to help Eastleigh out of the National League after signing a two year deal. ing a two-year deal.

He joins fellow new signings Paul Mc Callum, Danny Hollands and Chris Ze broski at the Silverlake Stadium. That means that, compared to last

season's farcical standards, Eastleigh have been relatively calm on the sign-

ings front this summer.
That was just what boss Richard Hill

intended.
With the revolving door almost spinning off its hinges during a manic 2016/17 campaign, the nonstop comings and goings took a terrible toll on the Spitfires' ambitions to reach the Football League. By the time Hill came back to res-

cue the situation in February, East-leigh's likeliest route out of the non-League's top tier appeared to be downwards back into the National League South.
In the end, they stayed up reason-

ably comfortably in 15th spot and, although Hill has a decent budget to work with this term, he will be ultra careful how he spends it.

"We've got to try and get a sense of normality back," he stressed. "I know the expectations at East-leigh, but I don't want to start giving

out contracts to players that are not only more than they're worth but could potentially cost the club over a period of time.

"If we're giving out two-year contracts, the players have got to add value not just in the first year but in the second year as well."

Alluding to last summer when some of Eastleigh's early signings were quickly pushed down the pecking order by bigger and better arrivals, Hill said: "There were players who were signed last summer who found the moderate of the summer who found the moderate of the summer who found themselves surplus to requirements by the start of the season and those players had been signed on two-year

"I refuse to do that - you don't have a wardrobe full of clothes that you're

not going to wear.
"I won't expose the football club

"I won't expose the football club like that – not purposely anyway."
"I won't pay a salary to a player if I don't believe they're worth what they're asking for. And I won't be used as a pawn against other clubs.
"I offered one player what he'd asked for because I thought he was troubly it but Laws him wild his come."

worth it, but I gave him and his agent a time frame to take it, which didn't go down too well, and they didn't ac-cept it even though I'd offered what they wanted.

"They've probably gone away and used that to try and negotiate more money with another club and then they'll probably come back to me



goal at Chelsea in January 2015 (Press Association).

#### **Hedge End** ace signs for **Bromley**

BRETT Williams is on the move again. The 29-year-old former

Winchester City, Eastleigh and Aldershot striker has joined Vanarama National

League outfit Bromley.
Williams, who hails from
Hedge End, Southampton, scored 11 goals for Torquay United last term, helping them steer clear of the VNL drop zone.

His most prolific spell had come during his two years at Aldershot where he netted almost 40 goals before joining League Two side Stevenage.

Williams then spent time on loan at Forest Green Rovers and scored the winning goal in the playoff semi-final first leg away win at Dover Athletic

He went on to start the play-off final in May 2016



**Brett Williams** 

against Grimsby Town at

Wembley Stadium.
Bromley boss Neil Smith said: "I'm absolutely delighted to finally confirm Brett's arrival.

"He's a great player who has come in with a great attitude and everybody I've spoken to about him gave me glowing reports, so I'm expecting him to come in

raring to go." Williams added: "I'm very happy to be here.

"It's a club going forward in the right direction and I was surprised to see the

scale of what is happening. "It's very impressive and ticks all the boxes for me.

"I think myself and Bromley FC will do well for each other.

"I want to get back to 20plus goals a season.

"I've seen the squad that has been built.

"I know a few of the team from playing with or against them and I'm really excited to get going."

# **NON LEAGUE**



# **Ground has** a new name

Winchester City have signed a new sponsorship deal and renamed their home ground the Simplyhealth City ground.

City's home ground at Abbotts Barton has been known as the Denplan City ground for many years.

But it has undergone a name change after Denplan underwent a rebranding.

Denplan, the UK's leading dental payment plan specialist, announced in February that Denplan and Denplan Pet Health plans would now be known as Simplyhealth Professionals.

The name change has now been extended to City's home ground.

Denplan and Simplyhealth joined forces in 2011.

A statement on City's website said: "This extends the generous and long-term sponsorship arrangement that has run for many years and that will now continue for the next two seasons.

"As previously, the arrangement covers the ground naming rights and shirt sponsorship. "The ground will

"The ground will now be known as The Simplyhealth City Ground.

"The Club would like to thank all at Simplyhealth for their continued support for the Club and for the community."



Action from the City ground

# 'Stoke becomes a community club

### Graham Merry

THE long-term future of Basingstoke Town took another step forward at a fans' forum on Tuesday night, when it was decided to form a community club.

Around 50 people packed into the clubhouse at the ground to hear some passion speeches from provision committee members Alan Turvey and Steve Williams as to why this is the right way move for the club.

Turvey stressed the need for it to be a united club and that everyone moving in the same direction with the same goals.

Williams said: "We now have to sell this vision to everyone in the area and make this club big in its own community."

James Mathie of Supporters Direct gave a very good presentation as the reasons why Basingstoke Town should become a community club.

It is tested model right across the football pyramid from League One AFC Wimbledon down to the Dragons' Southern League rivals Banbury and Dorchester and below

A vote was then taken of all those present and no one was against the idea. Basingstoke Town manager

Basingstoke Town manager Terry Brown gave a passionate speech and said: "I have seen a community club in action when I was manager at AFC Wimbledon and this is a fantastic run club.

"This town is massive and this is a great opportunity. It will of



Martin French, Steve Williams and Will Wilkinson

course involve a lot of work, but with some great rewards.

"We have a great Academy thanks to the super work by Jason Bristow and a team of very talented young players. So I think it is exciting times for this club."

The initial board of Basingstoke Town Community FC was increased from three to four as they were joined by the newly elected Supporters Club chairman Martin French.

He will join Alan Turvey (presi-

dent of the club), Steve Williams (former player and manager) and Will Wilkinson (digital and marketing).

There with two spaces still available for fans on the provision committee, which will run for around six months.

Anyone who is interested in joining can contact the club via the club's email which is admin@btfc.co.uk

# Town start their pre-season campaign on Tuesday with a trip

to Alton.

Their first home friendly is against Eastleigh on Tuesday July 11 (7.45pm).

Town boss Brown is looking forward to the campaign and the chance to look at a number trialists to add to his squad.

Brown said: "I will be looking to take 22 players to Alton and play 11 in each half. It will be nice to take a look at a number of players, as we look to build an exciting young team."



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### CHERRIES



# Defoe promises Cherries goals

#### Paul **McNamara**

JERMAIN Defoe has completed his free transfer move to Cherries – and declared "the one thing I can guarantee is goals'

The former Sunderland striker has penned a three-year contract worth £65,000 per week and will join up with Eddie Howe's squad in time for next month's nine-day training camp in Marbella.

Defoe is currently on extended leave after being part of the England squad that played matches against Scotland and France earlier this month.

"When the opportunity came about to return to AFC Bournemouth I just knew it was the right one," Defoe told the club's web-

"It was an easy decision, joining a top team with a top manager. It is a great place to be

"The Bournemouth fans know that every time I pull the shirt on I will give 100 per cent, and the one thing I can guarantee is goals.

Boss Howe added: "This a huge moment for the football club and another step in the right direc-

"We want to bring players here who can have a big impact on our continued rise and we believe Jermain fits that as a natural, proven goal scorer.

"We have known him for a long time, since working with him as a young pro and playing with him. have followed his career and am delighted to say he is going to be playing for AFC Bournemouth again.

Cherries chief executive Neill Blake revealed the club wasted no time in setting the wheels in motion on a deal once they knew the forward's services were up for grabs

He said: "As soon as we found out Jermain was available, we worked hard to make this trans-



Jermain Defoe celebrates scoring at St Mary's last season (Press Association)

fer happen.

"Top class strikers are not easy to come by, so I am delighted that Jermain will be pulling on the AFC Bournemouth shirt once more

"He is someone with huge experience at the highest level, he knows the club and we believe he can make a real impact in helping us continue building on our recent success.

The 34-year-old returns to Cher-

ries 16 years after he spent seven months on loan at Dean Court from West Ham United.

Capped 57 times by his country, Defoe scored 15 goals for Sunderland last season but was unable to prevent the Wearsiders from tumbling out of the Premier League.

He spent two-and-half years at the Stadium of Light, where he was an unmitigated success after coming back to England following six months playing in Major League Soccer for Toronto FC.

Defoe penned a one-year extension to his original three-and-ahalf year Sunderland deal last summer - but the contract included a clause enabling him to leave the club for nothing should they he relegated.

The 5ft 7in forward, who is tied to Cherries until at least summer 2020, was eager to continue playing in the Premier League to improve his chances of playing in next summer's World Cup finals in Russia.

#### **Nothing less** than 'tip-top' will do

SIMON Francis admits no squad members dare return for pr season in anything less than tiptop condition – and says trying to 'run off' the effects of a lads' holiday is a thing of the past.

Cherries' players are due back today with boss Eddie Howe set to prepare his troops for the rigours of a third straight campaign in the Premier League.

At 32 years old, captain Francis is one of the more seasoned members of a squad which finished a club-record ninth in the top flight in 2016-17.

And the former Charlton man's ample experience of working under Howe's command has taught him that being in good condition from the off is vital to earning selection once the new term gets under way.

Asked about the importance of players looking after their bodies over the summer, Francis told the Daily Echo: "It is very important, especially when you get a little bit

"I can't run through a lads holiday and then come back and try to run it all off in pre-season, that's for sure. It's definitely not those days from 10 years ago.

"Times have changed. You can't do what you want and come back overweight and not in shape. You are only going to slow yourself down and go to the back of the

"We work hard in pre-season and anyone who doesn't come

back in shape will get found out.
"I have to be honest, all the lads come back in great shape and ready to work hard and why wouldn't you when another season in the Premier League awaits us?"

Having skippered Cherries in their second campaign in the Premier League, Francis is now a convert to the idea of 'secondseason syndrome'.

While the Dorset club eventually finished in the top half of the standings, the season was not without tough moments, including a eight-match winless run at the

start of the calendar year. But an 11-point haul from the final five games saw Cherries storm into the summer on a high.

Francis added: "When you look back on what we have achieved as a club, being able to captain this team was a huge honour. I was delighted to lead the lads out every week.

"It was hard at times. I believe in the whole second-season syndrome thing now. Before, I always thought it was nonsense.

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20 PINK Saturday, July 1, 2017



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#### Two decades on from the 'bite' night

June 28 represented the 20th anniversary of the evening Mike Tyson bit Evander Holyfield's ears during their world heavyweight title rematch at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Here, the Sports Pink revisits eight facts surrounding the best-known night in 'Iron Mike's' career.

- 1. Holyfield v Tyson II was billed as 'The Sound and The Fury'.
- 2. It had been scheduled for May 3 1997 but, after Tyson suffered a cut over his left eye during training, it was postponed until June 28 of that year.
- 3. Tyson's former trainer Teddy Atlas had told reporters the night before the fight that if he did not secure an early knockout he was "going to try to disqualify himself, either by elbowing, or throwing a low blow,



Mike Tyson

butting or biting".

- 4. Holyfield afterwards required eight stitches in his right ear.
- 5. This was the last Tyson fight to be promoted by Don King. Tyson ended up being no fan of King, describing him as "a bad man, a real bad man. He would kill his own mother for a dollar. He's ruthless, he's deplorable, he's greedy ... and he doesn't know how to love anybody."
- 6. 'The Bite' was named the 1997 Event of the Year by The Ring magazine.
- 7. Holyfield v Tyson II was then the highest grossing fight in history.
- 8. Mitch Halpern, who oversaw the first fight, was again chosen as referee until Tyson's managers John Horne and Rory Holloway asked the authorities that he be replaced. Mills Lane took Halpern's place.

# PINK

# All Blacks v Lions

#### Jamie **Spoor**

THE British Lions are in New Zealand aiming to win a series against the All Blacks for the first time since the early 1970s.

Here, Jamie Spoor looks back at all the Lions' summer tours which have taken in games against one of sport's most iconic teams.

#### 1904

Australia W 3-0, New Zealand L 0-1

The British and Irish Lions (or the British Isles as they were then referred to as) were first invited to visit New Zealand in 1888.

They returned in 1904 under coach Arthur O'Brien for a twolegged tour that also took in Australia and featured official Test matches for the first time

The tour ran from June until August and the Lions claimed a clean sweep Down Under – winning the three Tests 17-0, 17-3 and 16-0.

Welsh winger Willie Llewellyn starred for the tourists as he scored a try in each of the Tests and compatriot Percy Bush - regarded as one of Britain's most talented pre-War players - also impressed with 17 points.

Despite a brave effort in their solitary Test against the All Blacks in Wellington, the Lions lost 9-3.

#### 1908

New Zealand L 0-2

The tourists returned to Australia and New Zealand for a mammoth four month, 26-match tour

Led by captain Arthur 'Boxer' Harding, the series would become known as the "Anglo-Welsh" tour after only players from those two nations were chosen.

23 of the matches were against club and invitational sides, with three tests to be played against New Zealand.

Although the Australia leg of the tour was once more successful, the team were outplayed against the All Blacks.

A Jack Jones try in the second test helped the Lions avoid defeat in a drawn match, but the tourists lost heavily in the other two - 32-5 and 29-0.

#### 1930

New Zealand L 1-3, Australia L 0-1

Sandwiched between two rare visits to Argentina, this tour was recognised as the first bona fide British team and the first to be officially dubbed the 'Lions'

Another physically and mental-



ly demanding schedule awaited the tourists, starting on 21 May and concluding 29 matches later, in October.

Under assistant coach James Baxter and captain Doug Prentice, the team face four tests against New Zealand and one against Australia.

The players who stood out for the Lions included England's Roger Spong and Welsh pair Harry Bowcott and Jack Bassett.

Ivor Jones was also impressive in the pack and set up a memorable try in the opening test against the All Blacks to give the Lions their only test win (6-3).

The next three tests were lost 13-10, 15-10 and 22-8.

The team moved to Sydney to face the Wallabies in a one-off

testt, which Australia won 6-5.

#### 1950

Australia W 2-0 New Zealand L

This was the first post-war Lions tour - there had not been one since their trip to South Africa 12 years previously due to the outbreak of the Second World War.

# PINK

# -the full history



This was also the first time an Irishman - Karl Mullen - captained the side

The tourists held the All Blacks to a 9-9 draw in the first of four Tests, played in Dunedin.

They won the rest of their non test matches in New Zealand, but again fell short against the All Blacks, losing narrowly 8-0, 6-3 and 11-8.

This was again a two-legged tour with the Lions winning both Tests against the Wallabies - 19-6 in Brisbane and 24-3 in Sydney.

#### 1959

Australia W 2-0 New Zealand L 1-3

The tour was notable for the 842 points scored across 33 games - a

record - and the individual haul of 22 tries scored by Tony O'Reilly, also a new tour best.

Led by Ireland captain Ronnie Dawson, the side beat the Wallabies 17-6 and 24-3, with O'Reilly scoring twice.

Three of the four Tests against the All Blacks yielded a close result, the Lions going down 18-17 and 11-8. New Zealand wrapped up the series in style again in the third as they won 22-8, but the Lions outscored the hosts by three tries to nil to avoid a whitewash in the final match of the tour.

#### 1966

Australia W 2-0 New Zealand L 0-4

The summer of 1966 would ultimately be a glorious one for English sport, but for the Lions it was a familiar story.

Their long wait for a Test series win in New Zealand went on as - despite another 2-0 win in the Australian leg of the tour - the All Blacks powered to a clean sweep.

Mike Campbell-Lamerton became the first Scotsman to captain the Lions and he scored tries in both of the Tests against Australia

The first brought a narrow victory before the Lions stormed to the series in the second with a record 31-0 triumph in Brisbane.

Centre Ken Jones contributed to that historic victory over the Aussies with two sublime individual tries.

After that high, however, came the low point as the supreme All Blacks proved an insurmountable hurdle once more.

They won 3-0, 16-12, 19-6 and 24-11 in an unprecedented whitewash.

#### 1971

#### New Zealand W 2-1

This was the first New Zealandonly tour and it proved a historic one as the tourists became the first - and to date only - Lions side to win a Test series against the All Blacks.

The Lions clinched the opening test in Dunedin 9-3, with Ian McLauchlan scoring the Lions try.

The All Blacks restored parity in the second Test, however, as despite a brace from Gerald Davies, New Zealand triumphed 22-12.

Welshman Barry John proved the Lions hero in Wellington as he scored ten of the 13 points to help them to a 2-1 success

Going into the final Test, a draw would be enough to give the Lions a famous series win.

Thanks to JPR Williams mammoth 45-metre drop goal and a heroic rearguard action in Auckland, the match ended 14-14 as the squad secured their place in Lions history.

#### 19//

#### New Zealand L 1-3

The Lions were far from embarrassed. Although they lost the Test series, they came close to drawing it.

Continued on page 24

# So, who is Dawid Malan?

Dawid Malan became the first player to hit a half-century on his England Twenty20 debut during Sunday's victory against South Africa.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five things you might not know about the 29-year-old.

#### 1. English-born, South Africa-

Malan was born in London but moved to South Africa at an early age. His breakthrough in first-class cricket came in the Western Cape for Boland in 2006. Later that year, he earned a contract with Middlesex, the county where his father played club cricket.

#### 2. Sporting family

He is not the only international in his family. Sister Line Malan plays hockey for South Africa. She has been named in her country's squad for July's World League semi-finals in Johannesburg and will hope to feature in next year's Commonwealth Games.

#### 3. He likes a debut

He scored 64 in the second innings of his maiden first-class game before hitting 132 not out on his County Championship bow for Middlesex in 2008. And by bludgeoning 78 for England on Sunday, he surpassed Paul



**Dawid Malan** 

Collingwood's highest score for an England T20 debutant. Collingwood scored 46 way in 2005 in England's first T20 match at The Ageas Bowl.

4. Freddie's seal of approval Malan rose to stardom in 2008 in a T20 quarter-final against Lancashire. When he arrived at the crease, Middlesex were 21 for four. When he left, they were 175 for six. The then 20-year-old struck 103 in just 54 balls and his side's total of 176 was enough to earn a 12-run victory. As he left the field, opponent and England great Andrew Flintoff made sure to give him a pat on the back and a handshake.

#### 5. Well-travelled

Malan has racked up the air miles lately. He featured in the Bangladesh Premier League at the end of last year before heading to the United Arab Emirates for the Pakistan Super League, which took place from February to March. He was one of the foreigners who decided to play in the Lahore final - the first PSL game to take place in Pakistan - and helped Peshawar Zalmi to glory. Since then, he has featured in the North v South series in the UAE and the champions game against the MCC in Abu Dhabi. Oh, and his Instagram page shows further trips to South Africa, Loch Lomond and Portugal within the last six months.

#### **Lions in New Zealand**

from page 23

The tourists led 9-6 deep into injury time in the fourth Test, only for Lawrie Knight's try to see the Al Blacks home 10-9 (Scot Dougle Morgan scoring all of the Lions

Wales' Phil Bennett captained the side and was their top points scorer, with 18, despite not scoring a try in any of the three Tests.

On their way home, in August, the Lions played a one-off test in Suva against Fiji, losing 25-21 for their fifth defeat of the 26-match tour

#### 1983

New Zealand L 0-4 The Lions went down to a 4-0 whitewash for only the second time

in their history – the previous clean sweep also coming at the hands of the All Blacks 17 years previously.

The squad were captained by Ciaran Fitzgerald, coached by Jim Telfer and managed by Willie John

The Lions played 18 matches in a condensed two-month tour, from May until July.

Three of the four Tests proved to be competitive, with the hosts edging a thrilling contest with a late Mark Shaw try to earn a 16-12 win in the first.
The All Blacks ran out 9-0 winners



Gavin Hastings.

in Wellington and 15-8 in Dunedin, despite two Lions tries from Roger Baird and John Rutherford

They would go on to inflict a record defeat on the beleaguered tourists with a 38-6 victory in the last of the four Tests.

New Zealand L 1-2 This was the last Lions tour in the sport's amateur era and also saw the Test series reduced from four matches to three.

lan McGeechan, who toured with the Lions as a player on the 1977 tour, was instilled as head coach with Gavin Hastings as captain.

The Scottish fullback was the Lions most impressive player and capped a series of impressive performances as their top score

His six penalties in the first Test was unable to prevent a narrow defeat as the All Blacks edged the contest 20-18 in Christchurch, thanks largely to metronomic kicking from fly-half Grant Fox.

Rory Underwood's try and four more penalties from the boot of Hastings set up a convincing 20-7 win for the tourists in Wellington.

New Zealand proved too strong in the decider though, winning 30-13. Continued on facing page

# Fourth title is in

#### Simon Carter



The 2017 Tour de France could see as many as nine British riders on the start line once team lineups are confirmed.

While three-time winner Chris Froome and 30-time stage winner Mark Cavendish are the biggest names in the mix, there is a strong supporting cast vying for

Here Press Association Sport looks at those who could be lining up in Dusseldorf on July 1.

#### **CHRIS FROOME**

Age: 32. Team: Team Sky Previous Appearances (finishes in brackets): 2008 (84th), 2012 (second), 2013 (first), 2014 (DNF withdrew stage five), 2015 (first),

2016 (first).

Stage wins: Seven (2012 - stage seven; 2013 - stages eight, 15 and 17; 2015 - stage 10; 2016 - stages eight and 18)

The obvious favourite. His victory last year made him one of just eight men with three or more Tour wins to their name, and the first to successfully retain the crown since Miguel Indurain in 1995. But he now has even bigger goals in mind. If he is wearing yellow in Paris again this year, Froome will stand alone on four overall victories and be tantalisingly close to the all-time record of five wins, held jointly by Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault, Jacques Anquetil and Indurain. However, his form so far this year is open to question. Each of his previous Tour wins was preceded by victory in the Criterium du Dauphine but this year he could only manage fourth, leaving him without a win on the road in 2017

#### MARK CAVENDISH

Age: 32. Team: Team Dimension Data

Previous appearances: revious appearances. 2007 (withdrew after stage eight), 2008 (withdrew after stage 14), 2009 (131), 2010 (154), 2011 (130), 2012 (142), 2013 (148), 2014 (DNF abandoned after stage 1), 2015 (142), 2016 (DNF - abandoned after stage 16).

Stage wins: Stage wins: 30 (2008 - stages five, eight, 12 and 13; 2009 - stages two, three, 10, 11, 19 and 21; 2010 - stages five, six, 11, 18 and 20; 2011 - stages five, seven, 11, 15 and 21; 2012 - stages two, 18 and 20; 2013 - stages five and 13; 2015 - stage seven; 2016 - stages one, three, six and 14).

After suggestions in 2015 that his time had passed, Cavendish responded in some style in 2016 to win four stages before departing

on the second rest day to focus on the Olympics. That haul brought him within four of Eddy Merckx's all-time record of 34 Tour stage wins. That mark could well be within Cavendish's reach this summer given an unusually high number of stages open to a bunch sprint finish, but in order to get

there the Manxman will need to

show that he is over a long bout

of illness which has kept him off

the roads for three months of the season to date.

#### GERAINT THOMAS

Age: 31. Team: Team Sky

Previous appearances: 2007 (140), 2010 (67), 2011 (31), 2013 (140), 2014 (22), 2015 (15), 2016

Stage wins: None

The Welshman was handed his big chance to lead Team Sky in a Grand Tour in May at the Giro d'Italia, but things did not go to plan as a freak crash caused by a police motorbike on the Blockhaus climb ended his chances. Thomas has played a major role in each of Froome's Tour victories to date and the affable character will be a welcome addition to the Sky line-up once again.

SIMON YATES



# PINK

# Froome's sights



Age: 24. Team: Orica-Scott Previous appearances: 2014 (DNF - abandoned after stage 15), 2015 (89).

Stage wins: None

Yates' hopes of riding the 2016 Tour were ended by a four-month doping ban - which his team blamed on their own failure to properly apply for a therapeutic use exemption for his asthma inhaler. Instead he had to watch from a distance as his twin brother Adam won the young riders' classification and finished fourth overall.

#### STEVE CUMMINGS

Age: 36. Team: Team Dimension Data

Previous appearances: 2010 (151), 2012 (95), 2015 (86), 2016 (140).

Stage wins: Two (2015 - stage 14,

2016 - stage seven)

Like his Dimension Data teammate Cavendish, Cummings has faced huge hurdles in his bid to line-up in this year's Tour de France after suffering a fractured collarbone, sternum and scapula in a crash in April. But his team will offer every opportunity to the wily veteran, who has won stages in each of the past two Tours. He warmed up by claiming a first

British time trial title at the UK National Championships.

#### ALEX DOWSETT

Age: 28. Team: Movistar

Previous appearances: 2015 (Abandoned on stage 12).

Stage wins: None

The Essex rider endured a torrid Tour de France debut in 2015, crashing on stage four, struggling on the early mountain stages and barely missing the time cut on stage 11, and he pulled out after being dropped on the first climb of stage 12. After all of that, he sat out last year's race but is once again on Movistar's shortlist for their Tour squad thanks to his time-trialling prowess. He broke the British record over 25 miles in May last year and took a time-trial win in the 2013 Giro d'Italia.

#### **LUKE ROWE**

Age: 27. Team: Team Sky Previous appearances: 2015 (136), 2016 (151).

Stage wins: None

Rowe made his Tour debut in 2015, becoming only the third Welshman to finish the Tour, and will make it three in a row as a key lieutenant of Froome. Still only 27, Rowe has taken on the status of road captain for Sky, trusted to make the key decisions on the road. This year's Sky squad features a number of older, more experienced riders, but the faith shown in Rowe emphasises his value to the team.

#### DAN McLAY

Age: 25. Team: Fortuneo-Vital Concept (to be known as Fortuneo-Oscaro from the start of the Tour)

Previous appearances: 2016 (170).

Stage wins: None

McLay was among the revelations of last year's Tour as the young sprinter recorded four top-10 finishes in the opening week, including third on stage six as he mixed it with the world's best.

#### **BEN SWIFT**

Age: 29. Team: UAE Team Emirates

Previous appearances: 2011 (135).

Stage wins: None

Having left Team Sky at the end of 2016, Swift is in line for his first appearance in the Tour since 2011, when he claimed sixth place on stage 15 while supporting Sir Bradley Wiggins' pursuit of yellow. Illness and injury initially hampered his move to UAE Team Emirates, but the Yorkshireman was on better form in the Criterium du Dauphine, finishing second on stage seven while claiming fifth in the points classification and third in the mountains clas-

# Lions in New Zealand

from facing page

2005

New Zealand L 0-3

Despite boasting one of the most experienced and talented squads in history, the Lions were routed and lost every Test match on tour for the first time in 22 years.

This was a series that proved catastrophic both on and off the field with the Lions' misfortune encapsulated by Brian O'Driscoll's tour ending injury a minute into the first Test.

The centre suffered a dislocated shoulder having being lifted and driven into the ground in a tackle from Tana Umaga.

Richard Hill was also ruled out and Danny Grewcock suspended for two months for biting an opponent.

months for biting an opponent.
England's World Cup winning
coach Sir Clive Woodward took on
head coach duties but received
much criticism for his decision
making and selection policy
throughout the tour.

The three Tests ended with scorelines of 21-3 in Christchurch, 48-18 in Wellington and 38-19 in Auckland – the Lions also lost the unofficial "fourth Test" against the New Zealand Maoris. 19-13.

New Zealand Maoris, 19-13.

After the tour, Woodward left rugby and moved into football - taking up a role in the Saints academy on the



**Clive Woodward** 

invitation of then chairman Rupert Lowe.

#### 2017

New Zealand snuffed out the Lions' hopes of a shock win in the opening Test last weekend with a ruthless display at Eden Park.

ruthless display at Eden Park.
A breathless match had been
poised at 13-8 at half-time, Codie
Taylor's brilliant pick-up bringing the
All Blacks' opening try before the
Lions struck back with a wonderful
length-of-field effort begun by Liam
Williams deep in his own 22 and
finished by Sean O'Brien.

But after the Lions had gone close early in the second period, the home side struck again through Rieko loane's try in the corner.

And the home side took control as the Lions' much-vaunted replacements struggled to make any impact, loane feasting off an error to race away for his second.

Led by the outstanding Kieran

Led by the outstanding Kieran Read and with fly-half Beauden Barrett impeccable from the tee, landing six from six, the All Blacks romped to a 39-15 success with Rhys Webb's late try little consolation for the tourists.

Only once in their history have the Lions won a series in New Zealand, and never having lost the first match

26 DAILY ECHO Saturday, July 1, 2017

# Daily Echo Ello Hello He



#### **RESULTS**



#### Winners

- D Alderson Marchwood, Hants P Alexander Southampton, Hants A Arnold Ower, Romsey, Hants J Ashby Southampton, Hants J Buckle Southampton, Hants D Forder Southampton, Hants
- D Forder Southampton, Hants J Franklin Southampton, Hants M Godwin Southampton, Hants G Goulding Eastleigh, Hants S Harfield Southampton, Hants
- D Alderson Marchwood, Hants
  P Alexander Southampton, Hants
  A Arnold Ower, Romsey, Hants
  C Lock Lymington, Hants

Competition number \$26

- M Matthews Wokingham, Berkshire W McDonald Southampton, Hants K Murtagh Southampton, Hants
- D Nicholson Southampton, Hants K Parker Netley Abbey, Hants M Phillips Southampton, Hants T Smyth Winchester, Hants

It is with great sadness that we announce the Find the Ball competition has now closed and no further competitions will appear in paper.

This is a decision we have taken, with regret, however, we have seen a steady decline in entries over the years which means the competition is no longer viable.

We would like to thank you for your support of Find the Ball and hope that you will continue to enjoy reading the Daily Echo for many years to come.

There are many great offers and competitions in your Daily Echo that we hope you will enjoy entering, starting today we will be giving away £1,000 each Saturday in July.

See below for details on how to enter.

# STOOO CASH GIVEAWAY

To celebrate the summer, we are giving 6 readers each week the chance to win a share of £1000 simply by answering the question and completing the entry form below. 1st prize £500 and 5 runners up winning £100 each!

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#### **Cash Giveaway Entry Form**

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Vacuat Divide

☐ From time to time, the Newsquest would like to contact you about news, features, great offers and special events. If you don't want to receive these, please tick this box

Terms and Conditions: This competition closes at 5pm on 8th July 2017, when the winner/s will be selected at random from the correct entries received. The judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Employees of Newsquest and members of their family are not eligible to enter this competition. There is no equivalent for the cash prize effect which will be paid in the form of a cheque within 4 weeks of the closing date. Winners must be prepared to the their new event when the prepared to the prepared to the prepared to the prepared to the their newsquest terms and conditions apply please see dorselector, out/competitioners. This competition will be published in the Dorsel Echo, Daily Echo and Southern Daily Echo with winners selected from all correct entries received.

# Cook and Harmer star as Essex romp to innings victory



Simon Harmer

The inaugural round of day-night Specsavers County Championship fixtures produced some nail-biting finishes despite the wet weather around the country. Here, the Sports Pink selects some of the key tales from both divisions.

COOK IS ON FIRE - Nobody can say that losing the England Test captaincy has affected Alastair Cook's form. The lefthander has piled up the runs this season to lift Essex to the top of Division One. Cook has scored six centuries across all formats so far this summer and looks in great condition heading into England's Test series against South Africa.

SUBLIME SANGAKKARA - The veteran Sri Lankan's prolific form this season makes

you wonder why he is calling it a day at the end of this campaign. The 39-year-o became the first player to pass 1,000 unbeaten 180 - his sixth Division One ton this term - for Surrey against Yorkshire at Headingley.

SIMON HARMER-S MIDDLESEX - The South Africa spinner bowled Essex to another brilliant win, taking nine for 95 in the second innings. Harmer has claimed 28 wickets for just 300 runs in his last two matches and Essex are marching towards the title

**UMEED TAKES HIS TIME - Talk about** getting your eye in. Warwickshire's batting has lacked the kind of fight Andy Umeed

showed this week at Edgbaston. The 21-year-old opener spent 429 minutes compiling his century - the slowest hundred in County Championship history - for Warwickshire against Lancashire.

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER - If you are good enough, you are old enough. That was the approach Derbyshire took this week when selecting Hamidullah Qadri. Born in 2000, the 16-year-old spinner made his debut and took five for 60 to inspire Derbyshire to their first Championship win since 2015.

GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN - The pink ball brought some funky decisions from skippers this week. No more so than Worcestershire captain Joe Leach against Durham. After dismissing the hosts for 197, Leach promoted John Hastings and himself to three and four respectively, presumably to take the shine off the pink ball early doors. Although the pinch-hitters only made 12 and 15 respectively, each with a four and six to their names, Worcestershire still managed to secure a first-innings lead of

STAT ATTACK - Cook and Nick Browne's 373-run opening partnership was the highest in Essex's history.

**NEXT CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES** Division One, July 3: Surrey v Hampshire, Warwickshire v Middlesex, Yorkshire v Essex. Division Two: July 3: Derbyshire v Durham, Gloucestershire v Glamorgan, Kent v Northamptonshire

# Ten to watch out for at SW19

Andy Murray defends his Wimbledon crown while Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are both looking for their second grand slam titles of

the year. World number one Angelique Kerber heads a very open women's field, with defending champion Ser-ena Williams absent on maternity

Here, the Sports Pink picks out 10 other players to watch at SW19.

MILOS RAONIC - Raonic looked set to mount a real challenge to the established order when he reached last year's Wimbledon final and finished the year ranked world number three. Injuries have disrupted his progress but he is confident about his form, and his huge serve and forehand make him a threat to everyone on grass in particular.

MARIN CILIC - The former US Open champion is overdue a big result at Wimbledon. Cilic has made the quarter-finals for the last three years, leading Novak Djokovic by two sets to one in 2014 and Federer by two sets to love last year only to lose both times. Showed good form on the clay, which bodes well for

ALEXANDER ZVEREV - At 20 years old, German Zverev is the hottest young prospect in men's tennis He became the youngest winner of a Masters event in a decade with victory over Djokovic at the Italian Open last month and reached the third round at Wimbledon 12 months ago. He is yet to go beyond that stage at a grand slam but that will surely change soon.

NICK KYRGIOS - Kyrgios remains hot-headed, unpredictable and at times infuriating, but there have been signs this season the Australian is starting to mature on the court. The main question mark surrounds his fitness after a nasty fall aggravated a hip problem and forced him out of Queen's. Fully



Venus Williams

fit, Kyrgios is capable of just about any-

**GILLES MULLER** - Federer and Nadal have stolen the headlines in this retro year but 34-year-old Muller is another of the old guard having a stand-out campaign. The Luxembourger has won his first two ATP Tour titles in 2017, including one on grass, his favourite surface, in Holland last week to elevate him to a career-high 26 in the rankings.

KAROLINA PLISKOVA - The openness of the women's game is reflected in the fact the favourite for the title has in the fact the favourite for the title has never previously been beyond the second round. But Czech Pliskova has been a different player at the slams since reaching the final of the US Open last year, making the quarters in Australia and the semis at the French Open Hermann and the semis at the French Open Hermann and the semisory that the semisory th and the semis at the French Open. Her big serve and powerful game should be well suited to grass.

JOHANNA KONTA - Rather like Pliskova, Konta has struggled at Wimbledon in the past but has a good game for grass and has made more big strides this sea-son, particular her title at the Miami Open in April. The British number one has shown she can beat nearly all her top-10 rivals and should benefit from the support of the home crowd.

VENUS WILLIAMS - Should Williams win her sixth Wimbledon title at the age of 37, she would be the oldest champion in more than a century. It is nine years since she won for the fifth time at the All England Club but Williams remains a force in the women's game and reached the final of the Australian Open in January, losing to Serena.

JELENA OSTAPENKO - If past experience is anything to go by, the chances of Ostapenko following up her remark-able French Open triumph with another at Wimbledon are remote. But if the 20-year-old Latvian, a former junior Wimbledon champion, can continue the fearless approach she showed in Paris on what should be a better surface for her game, nothing is impossible.

PETRA KVITOVA - The grass-court class of the field along with Williams, it would be a fairytale story if Kvitova was to win her third Wimbledon title. The Czech suffered such serious hand injuries when she was stabbed by an intruder in December that is was feared she might never play again. Instead she has returned ahead of schedule and her form so far has been promising



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# **HANTS CRICKET**





Mason Crane celebrates AB De Villiers' wicket (Pics by Press Association)



Mason Crane



Mason Crane (centre) celebrates taking the wicket of AB De Villiers

# haws:

England's Mason Crane during his spell of 4-0-38-1 against South Africa (PA)

# Crane claims A Big first scalp

#### Simon Walter



MASON Crane was euphoric after claiming the scalp of AB de Villiers as his first international wicket last weekend

The leg-spin sensation's dismissal of the South Africa captain last Sunday helped England secure a 2-1 win when the T20 series against the Proteas concluded in Cardiff.

After impressing on his England debut at The Ageas Bowl five days earlier, Crane did not have long to wait for his next opportunity.

Having conceded 16 from the first three balls of his third over against De Villiers in Cardiff, included successive sixes, he ended it by having the Proteas star caught by Alex Hales at deep square leg.



Mason Crane (centre) celebrates with Tom Curran and Dawid Malan

The unbridled celebrations showed how much it meant to the 20 year-old.

Crane then did his chances of a Test call-up no harm at all, if not

against South Africa then possibly against the West Indies next month, when he impressed for the England Lions against South Africa at Worcester.



Mason Crane (far right) celebrates the dismissal of Chris Morris with Chris Jordan (centre).



Mason Crane (second from left) celebrates the series win with his England teammates (PA)

# HANTS CRICKET

# 'Dutchy' is loving life at Hampshire

Simon **Walter** 



IT has been quite a week for Ian Holland who, at the age of 26, tripled his career tally of first-class wickets with the pink ball used for the inaugural round of day-night Specsavers County Cham-pionship matches, against Somerset on Wednesday evening.

Five years after earning a contract with Victoria by winning Cricket Superstar, an Australian reality TV show featuring some Baggy Green legends, the all-rounder had made the next big step with Hampshire.

He only played one Sheffield Shield match for Victoria, where his path to a first-team place was blocked by Dan Christian and John Hastings, before being released.

But his game, not unlike that of Dimi Mascarenhas, who recommended Holland to Hampshire after meeting him in Melbourne, is well suited to English conditions.

He initially came over to play for Fleetwood and took 128 Northern League wickets at 12.63 in 2013 and 2015, as well as scoring 1,060 runs at 39.28.

Now he has taken the chance to build on some outstanding performances for Hampshire's seconds.

'Dutchy' doubled his first-class wickets tally with 1-37 and scored 32 on debut against Warwickshire four weeks ago and relished his opportunity under the Ageas Bowl floodlights this week.

Holland took 4-16 to spark Somerset's collapse from 102-1 to 147 all out, with his wickets coming in the space of 20 balls, dismiss-



Ian Holland. Picture: Neil Marshall

ing four of Somerset's top six under the Ageas Bowl floodlights.

Holland took the big wicket of Steven Davies, who made a 40-ball ond time after Somerset were set 161 to win in 31 overs.

He finished with match figures of 6-39 and now has a career rejust 19 apiece.

His dad is English, hence his non-overseas status.

"It's very pleasing to be play-

#### 47 in the final innings, for the seccord of eight first-class wickets at Pothas gets Sri Lanka head coach role



Nic Pothas with KP at Lord's in 2005

FORMER Hampshire star Nic Pothas got off to a winning start as Sri Lanka's head coach.

Sri Lanka's former fielding coach was promoted to the role this week on an interim basis for the current series against Zimba-bwe and the tour of India, which starts later this month.

He replaces Graham Ford, who stood down after a disappointing Champions Trophy.

Pothas, a former Daily Echo columnist, oversaw a victory against Zimbabwe in the opening match of the one-day international se-

ries in Galle yesterday. Sri Lanka Cricket president Thilanga Sumathipala says he is a contender for the job on a fulltime basis.

"We have a strategic plan to engage the next coach and Nic Pothas is also a good contender for it," Sumathipala told cricinfo.

"There are professional coaches who are currently engaged and shown a lot of interest and we are confident we will have one at the end of the Indian tour.

"We will not have to look too

far to find somebody who will be competent to take this team till the 2019 World Cup."

Pothas said: "For me it is more about getting their [players'] roles clear, what our game plans

are and what our player roles are. "They are very, very able and we are very confident that we can do the job that is required."

The former wicketkeeper-batsman scored 7549 first-class runs at 43.88 for Hampshire from 2002-11 and was a key member of the team that won the 2005 and 2009 one-day cups at Lord's.

#### 2017 results and fixtures

2-4 Cardiff MCCU (h) FR

Hants 289 (Carberry 100, Ervine 58) & 271-6d (Vince 90, Alsop 52) drew with

Cardiff 98 & 110-2. 7-10 Yorkshire (a) CC1

Yorkshire 273 (Edwards 3-58) & 187 (Abbott 7-41), Hants 141 & 321-6 (Adams 72). Hants won by 4 wickets 14-17 Middlesex (h) CC1

Middlesex 456 (Wheal 4-98) & 278-9 (Abbott 5-59), Hants 438 (Rossouw 99, Carberry 98, Abbott 56, Ervine 53).

21-24 Yorkshire (h) CC1

Hants 455 (Vince 147, Berg 99no), Yorkshire 231 (Berg 4-62) & 399-6 (Abbott 3-65). Drawn 27 Kent (a) 50L

Kent 258 (Topley 3-65), Hants 260-4 (Alsop 112no, Vince 69). Hants won by

30 Essex (a) 50L Essex 304-7, Hants 279 (Vince 68, Bailey 63). Hants lost by 25 runs.

3 Middlesex (h) 50L Middlesex 295 (Gubbins 114, Topley 4-68) beat Hants 146-7 (Bailey 52no) by 89 runs (D/L)

7 Gloucestershire (h) 50L Hants 239-3 (Vince 89\*) beat Gloucs 237 (Dawson 3-30) by 7 wickets 10 Somerset (a) 50L

Hants 250-6 (Rossouw 156) beat Somerset 249 (Berg 3-44) by 4 wickets 12 Glamorgan (h) 50L Hants 332-6 (Vince 178) lost to Glamorgan 334-7 (Crane 3-69) by 3 wickets

14 Surrey (a) 50L Hants 271-8 (Bailey 145no) lost to Sur-

rey 238-2 by 66 runs (D/L) 17 Sussex (h) 50L

Match abandoned

19-22 Essex (a) CC1 Essex 360 (K Abbott 5-58) beat Hants 115 & 148 by an innings and 97 runs.

26-29 Somerset (a) CC1 Hants 162 & 293 (Carberry 51) beat

Somerset 197 & 168 (Crane 5-40) by 90 runs

2-5 Warwickshire (h) CC1 Hants 515 (Adams 166, Ervine 203) beat Warks 254 & 167 by an innings and 94 runs

8-11 South Africa A (h) Fr South Africa A 370-7d & 185-1d beat

Hampshire 185 & 119 by 251 runs. 19-22 Lancashire (a) CC1

Hants (395 & 168) lost to Lancs (593) by an innings and 30 runs

26-29 Somerset (h) CC1 Hants 211-9d & 96-5d drew with Som-

erset 147 & 88-8 JULY

3-6 Surrey (a) CC1

7 Glamorgan (a) T20 12 Sussex (a) T20

14 Middlesex (h) T20

20 Sussex (h) T20

21 Essex (a) T20

23 Surrey (h) T20

26 Somerset (a) T20 28 Gloucestershire (a) T20

AUGUST 1 Kent (h) T20

3 Middlesex (Lord's) T20 4 Essex (h) T20

6-9 Lancashire (h) CC1

10 Glamorgan (h) T20

11 Kent (a) T20

18 Somerset (h) T20 22-25 T20 QF

SEPTEMBER

2 T20 Finals Day

5-8 Surrey (h) CC1 12-15 Middlesex (a, tbc) CC1

19-22 Essex (h) CC1 25-28 Warwickshire (a) CC1

Key CC1 - Specsavers County Champion

ship division one, 50L - Royal London One-Day Cup, T20 - Natwest T20 Blast

#### Colourful character

**BBC Radio's Test Match Special will** be without one of its most colourful characters after September following the news commentator

Henry Blofeld is to retire.

The 77-year-old has announced he will step away from his position on the show at the conclusion of the Lord's Test between England and

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five things regarding a man who has been on the wireless for nearly half

HIS FAMILY IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN THE INSPIRATION FOR A JAMES BOND VILLAIN

Blofeld's dad, Thomas, went to school with lan Fleming, and the James Bond author is, according to the cricket commentator, believed to have decided on calling his villain 'Ernst Stavro Blofeld' - the one who strokes the white cat - after seeing the entries of Thomas, Henry and his brother John in the membership list of private club Boodle's.

HE WAS THE THIRD VICTIM OF A HAT-TRICK ON HIS LORD'S DEBUT

Although Blofeld scored two nturies at Lord's during his teens his first appearance at the Home of Cricket ended in ignominy. The talented Eton schoolboy, then 15, was dismissed for a golden duck in a contest against Harrow, the third victim in a hat-trick having charged wn the pitch and lost his off



Henry Blofeld.

HE SPENT FOUR WEEKS IN A COMA AFTER BEING HIT BY A BUS AT 17

In 1957, Blofeld, then captain of the Eton first XI, was hit by a bus in the village of Datchet when riding his bicycle to a nets session. Blofeld underwent numerous brain operations and needed various plastic surgery procedures.

HE ALMOST PLAYED FOR

ENGLAND IN 1964 AGAINST INDIA Having moved into the media and persuaded The Guardian to let him cover the 1963-64 tour of India, a sickness bug and a spate of injuries meant England were struggling to field a team for the second Test in Bombay, Blofeld, at 24 and with one first-class appearance, said: "With insufferable arrogance and, I hope, a smile, I replied I would certainly play if needed." However, England's -captain Micky Stewart discharged himself from hospital on the morning of the game and Blofeld

HE WAS READ THE LAST RITES IN

In 1999 Blofeld underwent a heart bypass operation and "died eight times on the operating table" when one of his blocked arteries burst

drowned me" in oil.

during surgery. In an interview on the BBC's Desert Island Discs, Blofeld said his brother-in-law read him the last rites and "almost

HANTS CRICKET



# Pink balls herald

#### Mark Staniforth

The pink ball arrived in the Specsavers County Championship this

Here, the Sports Pink looks at selected reaction from the daynight matches up and down the country after the opening day on

"The pink ball definitely did more when it was new and it's a shame we couldn't get a wicket or two at the end after declaring but credit to (Gloucestershire's) openers, they got through it well.

all-rounder Luke Wright.

"The seam is a little bit different. It didn't spin or turn as consistently as I thought it would, which maybe played to my advantage. There was a lot of bounce with the pink ball and it comes off the bat a lot better. All the bowlers felt there was extra bounce with it. We could have done better with the new ball, but it's going to take time to adjust to the pink ball."

Essex all-rounder

"We expected it to swing for a lot longer than it did and from what we've practised with and what the lads have experienced in the Abu Dhabi pink-ball games. We thought it would have done a lot more towards the end of the day as well, but it's done less than we thought."

Middlesex batsman Paul Stir-

"The pink ball didn't swing any more than the red. The seam is quite coarse and nylony so it gripped the pitch more when it was new and that created the early movement."

**Durham coach Jon Lewis** 

'The odd ball earlier was a little difficult to pick up but I knew what to expect having faced the pink ball before but it's quite different batting in Northampton to Abu Dhabi. The pink ball changed a lot and we could have taken as many as six wickets in that last session. Perhaps we didn't cash in as much as we should."

Northamptonshire batsman Ren Duckett.

"I wouldn't say the pink ball was much different to the red at the very start - the swing lasted about eight overs. But then from about 30-35 overs, for whatever reason, it started hooping. We always knew Ben Duckett was going to be aggressive and that's maybe the way to go against the pink ball to get the lacquer off it. When he went it changed the innings. But let's be honest, when the lights come on it's a totally different ball game.'

Leicestershire bowler Dieter

"I didn't mind the pink ball, It was very different to the red ball

as it didn't shine up as much as the red Dukes. It swung throughout the innings, so no real complaints from me at all.

Nottinghamshire bowler Luke Fletcher.

"It's definitely harder work with the pink ball. The red one always keeps you in the game because you can shine it up and

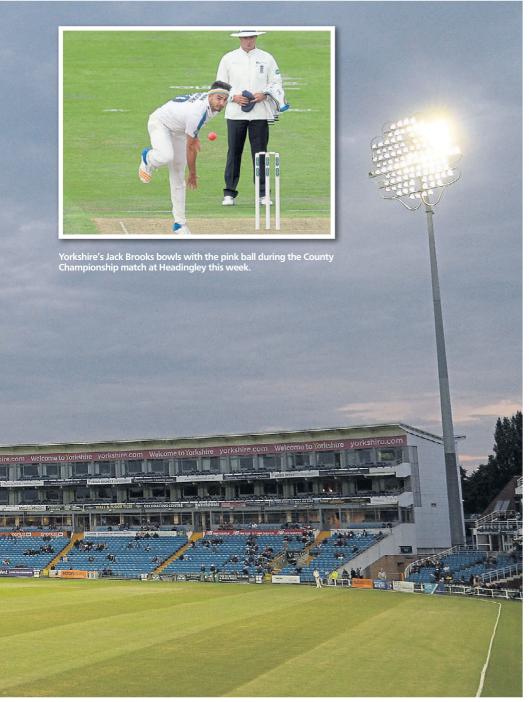
swing it well into the 60th over. With the pink one as soon as it stops swinging you're not getting it back. If they can improve the ball, make it harder for longer. that would make it more interesting, or better for the bowling unit anyway. Once the hardness wore off it felt like a one-day game in white clothes because it was like bowling with the white ball, no



# HANTS CRICKET



# new cricket era



swing and no real seam."

#### Yorkshire all-rounder Tim Bresnan.

"This morning I came in and had a 15-20 minute hit with the pink ball and that's about it. I just kept it pretty simple and didn't worry too much about the colour to be honest. Let's put it (his 87) down to beginner's luck. It felt terrible

off the bat and made a horrible sound so you didn't know when you'd middled it. That didn't give you too much confidence when you were batting but it was fine. Everything else was pretty standard. You could see when the lights came on, the ball was like a light bulb. It was extremely shiny and the boys had to get to grips with that. After three, four, five overs it

died down."

#### Surrey batsman Jason Roy.

"It was a good day's cricket which was not unduly influenced one way or another by the pink ball. It just behaved like a normal ball which is exactly what we want. The feedback I had from members was positive. The general view was that the pink ball was

easier to see between bowler's hand and bat than the white ball but not so easy to follow along the grass.

#### Warwickshire chief executive Neil Snowball.

"It's been quite interesting. We were all a little bit uncertain of how things would pan out. We knew the ball would swing early then stop swinging and in our innings there was a bit of reverse swing but not too much and it was a good battle between bat and ball."

#### Lancashire assistant head coach Mark Chilton

- Here are some of the stats from the historic first day of daynight pink ball Championship
- 96 wickets across day one of the matches.
- 26 wickets in the first session, including seven Durham batsmen against Worcestershire and five of Kent's line-up against Nottinghamshire.
- 2,984 runs scored, an average of 332 in each match.
- 180 Kent were bowled out for the lowest total of the day - having won the toss and chosen to bat.
- 18 Division Two strugglers Durham lost their first five wickets with just 18 runs on the board against Worcestershire. They recovered to an extent but were dismissed for 197.
- 6-80 the day's best best bowling figures, by Leicestershire's Dieter Klein against Northamptonshire. Essex spinner Simon Harmer recorded the day's other five-wicket haul, five for 77 against Mid-
- 118 the highest score by any batsman, Sussex's Luke Wright against Gloucestershire. Shivnarine Chanderpaul had just one run fewer when he ran out of Lancashire batting partners against Warwickshire.
- 89 balls taken for Northants opener Ben Duckett to reach 100, inside the first session, as he took an instant liking to the new hue. His century included 20 fours, with his side's total on only 139 at
- 2 a pair of teams declared before the day was out in a bid to take advantage of bowling under the lights - Hampshire, on just 211 for nine against Surrey, and Sussex when they were 358 for nine against Gloucestershire. Neither took a wicket.

# **Blowers'**

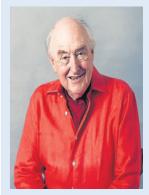
Henry Blofeld will retire as a commentator for the BBC Radio's Test Match Special in September after nearly half a century in the

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of the most memorable and quirky moments he has delivered to

'Here's Willis, in, bowls to Bright, Bright's bowled! The middle stump's out of the ground; England have won. They've won by 18 runs. Willis runs around punching the air, the boys invade the ground, and the players run, helter-skelter, for the pavilion. Well, what a finish," describing the moment Bob Willis secured England a famous Ashes Test victory at Headingley in 1981.

"It ballooned into the air and Bell dived forward like a porpoise after a fish and came up with the winner" - using a peculiar metaphor to describe Ian Bell's catch at short led in the 2005 Ashes series.

Well you might, you never know. After all Fred Truman's daughter married Raquel Welch's son. So anything is possible isn't it?" responding to Katy Perry fan Geoffrey Boycott's assertion that he is unlikely to meet the singer because she is American.



Henry Blofeld.

"Flintoff starts in, his shadow beside him. Where else would it be?"
- painting a fairly obvious picture to approached the crease.

"Ashley Giles trundles in to bowl rather like a wheelie bin," - painting an altogether different image of one of Flintoff's international colleagues.

'Oh! Look! I've just seen a crane at Lord's actually moving, doing some work. I've seen cranes all around always been still. That big white one there is moving. A moving crane, a yellow helicopter, what more has the day got to offer?" - witnessing one of the rare sights at the Home of

"Flintoff now, great leap, he bowls, Gilchrist has edged it...oh! He's caught it; it's an absolutely staggering catch by Strauss! He edged it, Strauss flung himself miles to his left and, one handed, somehow managed to hold on, it was an extraordinary effort," describing Andrew Strauss' sensational catch at second slip during the 2005 Ashes.

"It's a catch he would have caught 99 times out of 1000," - making a dolly sound somewhat less

# LOCAL CRICKET

# Two seismic setbacks

Title holders Havant hosted ECB British Gas Southern Premier Division table toppers Lymington today trying to put two seismic defeats to the back of their minds.

Never in the club's long history have they ever suffered losses like those inflicted by South Wilts and Normandy last weekend.

Old SPL adversaries South Wilts dented Havant's championship defence with a 151-run victory at Bemerton on Saturday.

Twenty-four hours later Havant found themselves on the receiving end of a 347-run tonking – and an eventual 155-run defeat-from Surrey Championship side Normandy in the ECB Royal London national championship zone final.

"A weekend to forget in a hurry," former Havant chairman Robin Sykes described it.

The Bemerton defeat, in which Havant were bowled out for a dismal 94, was the champions' third in eight matches, two of which they have drawn.

Going into today's ninth round of matches, Havant were 38



Chris Morgan.

points adrift of Lymington and 35 behind Bashley (Rydal) – a sizeable deficit to make up going into the second half of the campaign. It's doubtful if Havant's attack

It's doubtful if Havant's attack has ever come under such fire as it did at Normandy's pleasant tree-lined ground, just off the Hog's Back, near Aldershot.

Exeter University left-hander Will Hughes led the assault with a brutal 144 and shared an opening stand of 197 with Oil Batchelor (73) before former Alton College student Chris Jones hit a brisk 43.

In all, Normandy hit ten sixes and savaged 40 more boundaries on their way to 347-6 – a target Havant had little or no hope of

But for Chris Morgan's late 42, which raised Havant's reply from 119-7 to 197 all out, it could have been a total embarrassment for the local Premier League champions.

Normandy go to Bath in the last 16, while Havant will need to focus on next month's ECB T20 Championships at Beckenham for any glory at national level.

The omens aren't good, though. No local Premier League side has won a single game in that competition since Bournemouth lifted the trophy in 2009.

# Ben's Wad of runs takes Ryde clear

Mike **Vimpany** 



Defeats for Ropley and Portsmouth & Southsea have enabled Ryde to strengthen their grip on the Hampshire League, County Division 1 leadership.

leadership.
Led by a thumping 147 by left-hander Ben Wadmore, a player in the richest form of his career, Ryde racked up 298-8 at Rowledge, who are lacking a host of the senior players influential in last season's County 2 promotion campaign.

Their inexperienced young side, patiently out of its depth, rolled over for 149, with – Matt Webb (4-40) and Sam Rockley (3-26) doing the damage as Ryde opened up a nine-point lead at the top.

nine-point lead at the top.
Longparish and Lymington seconds enhanced their own promotion prospects with key wins over Ropley and Portsmouth & Southsea, respectively.
Promoted Longparish may lie

Promoted Longparish may lie sixth but they could be a long term threat in the mix and an 84-run win at hung-over Ropley will have done their prospects no harm.

their prospects no harm.
Longparish got a grip of the game from the start, with Michael Taplin (55) and Ben Gardner (33) sharing an 87-run start, and Jonnie Wahid adding a useful 44 as Parish closed 225-7.

Scott Sturt and Jack Levy took three wickets each as Ropley collapsed to 141 all out.

Bishops Waltham didn't expect to lose after Andy Wakely (116) and Don Quigley (95) shared an opening stand of 190 against Hythe & Dibden at the Albany Ground.

It was Wakely's second consecutive hundred.

But Hythe polished off the target with three overs to spare – Inam Agha, with 128, and – former Totton & Eling all-rounder, Hakim Peruzi (50 not out) their heroes.

"We became complacent after setting such a big total," confessed Waltham's Dan Wheeler. "By the time we recognised the danger Hythe were posing it was too late."

Hythe were posing, it was too late." Lymington II, unluckily relegated from Premier 3 at the end of last season, saw Gus Mitchell hit a last gasp boundary to beat P & S in a 500-run plus thriller at the Sports Ground.

The first half of the match was blighted by a series of mishaps for Ollie Kelly's men with two players, Gus Mitchell and Josh Royan struck by the ball in separate incidents and forced off the field, and as many as seven catches spilled as the visitors totalled 266-9 through Matt Benfield (65) and opener Jack Davies (45)

With Royan still in A & E, Billy Quigley (88), Jack Roberts (52) and then Glenn Willoughby (66) looked



Ben Wadmore and, below, Inam Angha.



to have turned the match round before a flurry of run outs saw the injured Mitchell return to the field to strike the winning runs

Fareham & Crofton's five-match winning sequence ended when Hook & Newnham Basics beat them by 57 runs at Bath Lane.

Hook's lower-order, Kish Parmar (34) and evergreen Colin Lye (18), in particular, turned the tide as the tail added 60 or so to wrest the initiative away from Fareham.

Ollie Southon (4-35) and left-arm

spinner Morgan Frost (3-31) took the bowling credits for Fareham, who never threatened Hook's eventual 178 and were bowled out for 131, Aussie teenager Reece Abrams (41) top scoring.

Morgan Smith (70), Steve Berryman (59), Tom Fay (44 and Roly Fowler (40) made hay as St Cross Symondians III rattled up 272-4 at the Green Jackets.

Burridge sank to 86-5 (Steve Fryer 4-23) before Will Candy (59) and Jack Slaughter (47) gave their eventual 215 respectability.

United Services broke their sixgame duck with a ten-wicket win at Shrewton, who were shot out for 90 by Jon Parker (4-20) and teen Freddie Gadd (3-11).

US raced to 58-0 in the 15-overs before tea when it looked as though rain might scupper their chances

rain might scupper their chances. But a break in the cloud looming low over Salisbury Plain enabled them to complete the task, albeit with some fraught nerves.

Shane Vidler's 127 put OTs & Romsey II totally in command against Sarisbury Athletic II, who mustered 142 (Steve Smith 3-66) after their hosts posted a formidable 217

Depleted Ventnor took an eightwicket beating from New Milton after being shot out for 104. Ralph Hussey made 44 not out.

### LOCAL CRICKET





Logan van Beek in action for St Cross.

### Logan switches

St Cross Symondians all-rounder Logan van Beek will be switching provinces from Canterbury to Wellington when he returns home to New Zealand this autumn.

The 26-year old, who has scored 280 Southern Premier Division runs and taken 14 wickets this summer, clearly impressed Wellington selectors when he played against them in Christchurch in late March, making scores of 66 and 54.

Back in local action at South Wilts today, Van Beek played for the Netherlands against Zimbabwe last week.

He was a member of the Dutch team that stunned England in the 2014 ICC World T20 Cup in Chittagong, taking 3-9, the scalps of Jos Buttler, Ravi Bopara and Chris Jordan.

# Hants 060s' crucial tie

The prospects of Hampshire Seniors finishing top of the National Over-60s County Championship West group will hinge on the outcome of their tie with Somerset at Hursley Park on Tuesday, 1pm.

If Hampshire can beat last year's national 60s champions, they will almost certainly top the six-county group, which they currently lead on the strength of back-to-back wins over Wiltshire and Wales

Left-hand pair Iain Britton (82) and Mike Swain (53) swept Hampshire past winless Wiltshire's 141-9 and to a ten-wicket win.

The five-wicket win over Wales, often a bogey side, was trickier, but an unbroken 71-run stand



Terry Morton.

between Jon Floyd (39) and Chris Yates (36) eased Hampshire home with 16

balls to spare.
Earlier, Terry Morton
(35), Keith Harsham (27),
Britton (26) and Swain
(24) played their part in
Hampshire chasing down a
Welsh total of 221-5.

Prospects are not so bright for Hampshire's 50s side who are struggling to qualify for the national phase.

Despite a century by Chris Wheeler (103), they lost by 38 runs to 2016 ECB 50-plus finalists Dorset, for whom Tim Cowley produced an inspired performance.

The younger brother of former Hampshire offspinner Nigel Cowley, Tim hit 53 before bagging 5-53.

Jim Ryall (87) and ex-Essex captain Paul Pritchard (58) top scored in Dorset's 263-9.

Hampshire made 235 all

# So much at stake in Bounty derby

Mike **Vimpany** 



FEW derbies are as hotly contested as when Basingstoke & North Hants and Hook & Newnham Basics clash.

There is even more at stake today, as both sides are very much in the British Gas Southern League Division One promotion shake-up, looking to chase down leaders Calmore Sports.

Hook are currently second with Basingstoke third, as May's Bounty hosts the first of two potentially key meetings this afternoon.

The second derby is at the KGV on the final day of the season – just as it was in 2016 when the rains set in, the match was abandoned ... and Andover came from nowhere to grab the title.

Hook are the in-form team at the moment.

Just as last season, they lost their opening three games, but have now gone five straight wins, the most impressive being their latest, when they shot out Portsmouth for 65.

Shane Brewer did most of the damage taking four wickets and there were two each for young Rupert Armstrong and veteran left-armer Kevin Poulter. Hook won by ten wickets, as Ben Thane finished unbeaten on 41.

The Bountymen also enjoyed a ten-wicket home win last week-

Former Hampshire and Kent seamer David Griffiths, enjoyed his best day with the ball since joining this campaign as player/ coach, with five wickets as Tichborne Park were bowled out for



Hook skipper Ben Thane batting.

133

Dan Belcher (77) and Max Harsham (52) shared an unbroken opening stand for victory.

Looking ahead to the derby, Hook's captain Thane said: "Basingstoke is always the biggest game of the season. It is the first one we look for on the fixture list."

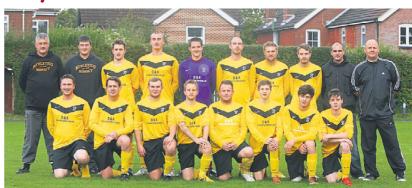
Basingstoke skipper Mitch Stokes said: "Every game is a big one and we need no reminding that Hook thrashed us at the Bounty last year, so we've a double incentive to win."

While the North Hants pair went head to head, leaders Calmore Sports were defending a 19-point lead at the top against Portsmouth on Southsea seafront.

### LOCAL FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA, 2001-2014 - CAN YOU



Bishopstoke. Back (from left): Lee Farminer, Graham Goater, Richard Walls, Ben Mckay, Joe Williams, Lee De Gray Birch, Sonny Field, Jon Spencer. Front: Luke Maurin, Tom Bendall, Danny France, Shaun Ridoutt, Joe Norbury, Mike Holland.



Athletico Romsey. Back (from left): Shawn Bundy, Matthew Bundy, Jamie Parker, Arron Philpott, Gareth Beddoes, Jamie Brown, Nick Allen, John Betteridge, Pete Robinson, Steve Griffiths. Front: Ian Cambridge, Simon Cook, ?, Mark Walker, Martin Pear, Pete Southwick, Dan Griffiths, Tom Munday.



Totton OB. Back (from left): Brad Edwicker, James Kermin, Leanne Lyon, Simon Edwicker, Graeme Lyon, Adrian Pennicott, Tony Croucher, Keith Woodhall. Front: Paul Chandler, Allan Lloyd, Brian Smith, David Saunders, Paul Stickland, Tom Pegler.



Regents Park. Back (from left): Rick Andrew, Nicky Winter, Paul Farrelley, Stuart Chance, Steve Smith, Darren Terrell, Rich Gorman. Front: Luke Cotter, Mike Woodnut, Matt Hunt, Micky Dear, Leigh Winter, Martin Richardson, Alex Totton, Tommy Thorn



14 Dec 2013 - Park Scratchings - Thompson (orange) v FC White Horse (white) - White Horse team photo (back l-r) Tina Durkin , Justin Beckett , Gareth Jones , Luke Cron , Ryan Martin



Solent Saints. Back (from left): Chris Boxx , Nathan Dale , Craig Nosworthy , Tim Grounsell , Joshua Scully-Rogers , Jonny Marsden. Front: Tanaka Mandimika , Tamlyn Goodrich , Adam Broome , Sam Chapman, Dan To.



Thompson. Back (from left): Joe Walsh , Terry Axton , Kieron Yeates , Billy Bloodworth , Malcolm Davie , Scott Collett, Rob Doherty. Front: Shane Yeates , Gareth Springer , Billy Hunt , Tom Bannister, Terry Garner.

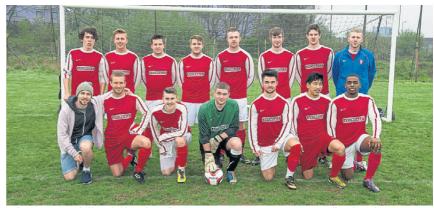


AFC Grains. Back (from left): Gary Burgess , Tom Biggs , Alex Hill , Liam Osman , Dan Burgess , Gav Bailey , Dave Butler , Tom Furlonger, Joe Grassick. Front: Ben Keens , Ade Mills , Liam Cooke , Tosh Ramsey , Dave Gray , Alex Adams , Simon Gray, Oli Adams

## **SPOT YOURSELF IN ANY TEAM PHOTOGRAPH?**



AFC Grains. Back (from left): Liam Osman, Oli Adams, Tom Furlonger, Gav Bailey, Dave Butler, Dan Burgess, Tom Gray. Front: Gregg Parker, Alex Adams, Josh Ramsay, Liam Cooke, Ade Mills, Dave Gray, Ben Keens.



Solent Saints. Back (from left): Josh Scully Rogers, Dave Finnigon, Tim Groomsell, Rob Taylor, Jon Mosden, Jack Taylor, Nath Dale, Adam Betteridge. Front: ?, Pat Blott, Tom Goodrich, Adam Broome, Sam Chapman, Dan To, Tonaka Mandimitea.



QK Southampton. Back (from left): Thomas Evans, Joe Proctor, James Hiscock, Samgwe Siame, Lawrence Crook, Mo Anton, Reece Ferguson. Front: Nathan Gray, Aaron Diavoava, Billy Taylor, Mitch Okonski, Sam Driscol, Ryan Wagstaff, Alex Dawson.



Warren Social. Back (from left): Lee Rankin, Michael Millward, Dave King, Aaron Holes, Dean Portelli, Daryl Smith, Ryan Baddams, Matt Headington, Kev Longland (manager). Front: Ryan Dickson, Matt Holmes, Niall Terrell(assistant manager), Ian Shaw, Matty Longland, Dean Laxton, Terry Greenough.



Braishfield Reserves. Back (from left): Andy Nutman, Lee Boyle, Ben Jacobs, Dan Thebe, Matt Pile, Reece Fellingham, Jake Hitchcock, Kevin Hitchcock. Front: Carl Hopkins, Dave Mason, Treb Evans, Paul Tanner, Ben Craggs, Dan Lewis, Lee Whitelock.



Weston City. Back (from left): Kieran Zanoletti, Greg Bannister, Richard Inwood, Connor Anderson, Lewis Taylor, Cody Haine, Kyle Brown, Lee Whittle. Front: Kyle Maidment, Ian Eyers, Chris Moulsdale, Jake Gale, Jonathan Pointer, Lee Anderson.



Brendon. Back (from left): Ashley Mcdonald, Daniel Fisher, Kieren Ginnefer, Daniel Sawyer, Noel Deveraux, Joshua Barnes, Lewis Wilshire, Liam Cullen. Front: Stuart Popplewell, Mitchell Hayes, Nick Craig, Mark Harrison, Tom Mason, Mark Barker, Perry Harding.



AFC Gulf Western: Back (from left) manager Paul Madden, Jody Agrella, Justyn Penfold, Joel Portlock, Paul Johns, Tom King, Michael Saye, Alan Whiteway. Front: Simon Mabey, Jordan Penfold, Keith Bailey, Sam Webb, Keiran Wise, Emmett Madden.

Saturday, July 1, 2017

## LOCAK FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA, 2001-2014 - CAN YOU

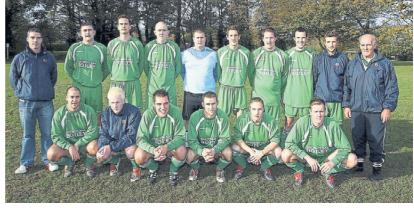


Railway team. Back (from left): Will Brereton, Alun Smith, Toby Brereton, Steve Pendrey, Stuart Barker, Mark Gulliford, Mike Hillier, Ben Bowers. Front: Matt Taylor, Gareth Clutterbuck, Stu Bullen, Jamie Moss, Doug Clutterbuck, Martin Garvey, Tom Williams.





Woolston.



Botley. Back (from left) Stephen Blackburn, Norm Steel, Dave Rowe, Danny Smith, Craig Wilson, Deon Holdaway, Darren Randell, Andy Wakeley, Adam Deacon, Pat Williams, Les Barnes. Front Chris Berry, Ian Perrett, Andy Blackburn, Jimmy Dixey, MattDavies, Brett Ciupek.



Brendon. Back (from left): Dicky Downes, Darren Foot, Sam Robson, Alex Thomas, Stephan Centenolla, Ricky Butler, Matt Balinger, Simon Brown, Paul Wheeler, Joe Kirkpatrick. Front: Paul Wolfe, Stuart Shaw, Wayne Rogers, Nick Ryves, AndyPhillips, John Healey and Barry Northend.



Hythe Aztecs. Back (from left) Liam Collymore, Jamie Jones, Rob Davis, Martin Clouder, Neil Jenkins, Pat White, Mike Wilson, David Tubb. Front: Tony York, Tom Cox, Geoff Toussmat, Martin Beazley, Jamie Martin, Brendon Beazley.



Nursling. Back (from left): Terry Koziou, Matt Hambidge, Darren Colvin, Adam Gage, ? Danny Gettings, Garry Joseph. Front, Greg Coke, Andy Wood, Jake Wilson, Scott Brown, Adam Cook, Patrick McManus.



Southampton KCFC

# SPOT YOURSELF IN ANY OF THESE TEAM PICTURES?



Wombles. Back (from left): James Dale, Wayne Ewens, Dan Powell, Richard Philpot, Derek Bell, Ben Foreman, Paul Whitaker. Front: Simon Turner, Ben Colley, Justin Lymer Les Harfield.



Solent WTL - names not in team order. N.Thorne, A.Warren, S.White, D.Cousins, L.Bryne, D.Marchant, K.Smart, J.Gibb, J.King, M.Weeks, N.Brown, R.Channel, P.Trevett, M.Standen, T.Bowers, Matt Standen.



AFC Terminal . Back (from left): Mike Webster, Sulik Nagra, Andy Moore, Andy Rossiter, Kit Carson, Ammo Sandu. Front: Paul Neal, ?, Matt Guy, Harj Chalhal, Ben Richards



Solent



Upham



Malvern squad (not in team order): J.Parker, L.Pearce, M.Coward, R.Way, D.Pancardi, L.Farminer, M.Donnaromma, D.Luk, S.Hickman, R.Patterson, M.Coombs, I. Barber, M.Bartlett, Graham Master.



Sparky Albion. Back (from left): P Smith, M Bracknell, S Haputton, C Bright, B Warwick, Bracknell, M Loftas. Front: R Cliffe, C Hall, J Aylett, P Nayer, Lawer, D Lockyer



Redwood United

## LOCAL FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA 2001-2014 - CAN YOU



RS Southampton. Back (from left): Melvin Bridle, Ben Gough, Dean Gillingham, Danny Hobbs, George Simpson, Richard Martin, Mall Pullinger, Terrence George. Front, Kieran Hobbs, Mark Joseph, ?, Cass Simpson, ClemSimpson, Craig Mackell, Chris Astridge.



Wheatshield. Back (from left): Andy Wynn, Matt Rolfe, Warren Dell, Pete M'Coley, Hassan Ellis, Andy Sandell, Matthew Coombe, Adam Hartland, Nigel Shepherd, Nigel Brookes, Paul Smith. Front, Ashley Moore, Steve Boswell, Kevin Philpott, Garry Davey, Peter Harding, mascot Neil Woodgate, Wayne Pickersgill, Nicky Woodgate, Peter Philpott.



Classic Comrades. Back (from left): Mandeep Singh, Kelvin Cablin, Nathan Ward, Ben Goulding, Anthony Cresswell, Adam Hewitt, Eddie Burch and Graham Spraggs. Front, Andy Hedges, Craig Slack, Richard Burton, Trevor Grant, Shaun Swift, Justin Payne.



AP Sport. Back (from left): Leon Gill, Lee Ayres, Steve Nikandrews, Ken Stevens, James Ghafoor, Phil Haddock, Paul Hubbocks, Darren Hibberd. FrontL Ken Pattinson, Wayne Lilly, Matt Hibberd, Tom Pattinson, Joe Edwards, Joe Bridge.



Academicals. Back (from left): Andy Symonds, George Roberts, Ashley Moore, Paul Hedges, Roger Sim, Jarek Bilek. Front, Thomas Entz, Mike Doswell, Ross McClean, Carl Farrell, Paul Doswell, Phil Wilson.



Capital. Back (from left): Dan Roger, Paul Burke, Ed Ruswa, Russ Andrews, James Brown, Andy Penso. Front: Mike Tudgan, Lucas Gregory, Oliver Stoneage, Dave Brockson, James Hobbs.



AFC Hop. Back (from left): Ross Clarke, Nathan Bygraves, Matt Armitage, Darren Browning, Graham Smith, Russ Overton, Paul Meads, Justin Kennick. Front: Carl House, Kaven McPhail, Andy Johnaway, Stuart May, Scott Hickey, Alan Mulligan.



Inmar. Back (from left): Danny Baines, Terry Quinn, Dean Chalk, Danny Hedges, Paul Wiltshire, Nathan Wakefield, Dean Matthews, Fred Hedges. Front: Ryan Witcher, Larry Streak, Carl Gardener, Dave Walker, Steve Harris, Dave Roberts, Bob Hodges.

## **SPOT YOURSELF IN ANY OF THESE TEAM PHOTOS?**



S&D Youth. Back (from left): Craig Justice, Stu Justice, Darren Rich, Tom Bapty, Liam Smith, John Betteridge, Sam Strange, Nail Monger, Ray Webb. Front: Tom Fawcett, Adam Webb, Andy Hunter, Steve Betteridge, Simon Randall, Dan Bapty, Adam Westwood.



Beaney Park. Back (from left): Graham Willis, Ian McGhee, Chris Baylis, Shammi Hair, Pete Smith, Martin Jenkins, Lee Rankin, Nigel Dunkerton. Front, Dave Jacks, Matty Mannock, Cameron McDonald, Micky Spencer, Ben Reeves, Gary Elderfield, Ashley Baddams.



Netley Central Reserves. Back (from left) Colin Herridge, John Olding, Anthony Davies, Dan Jackson, Dan Lewington, Matt Oxley, Joe Hill, Mick Clarke. Front, Nick Wooldridge, Matt Tew, Martin Buckland, Pedro Ferrerra, Marc Lebrocq,



Capital. Back (from left): Scott Garry, Richard Pavey, Glen Underwood, Gary Nicholls, Mark Austin, Chris Pearce, Scott Cheal, Jim Botto. Front, Neil Mortimer, Andy Swartz, Mark Dawkins, Dave Ash, Steve Ross, Mike Botto and Stuart Botto.



North Baddesley. Back (from left): Mick Davies, Adam Kiernan, Guy Bewick, Mike Gough, Andrew Williams, Kiron Lakeland, Neil Williams, Glen Parker, Kev Ede. Front: Oli Lynch, Martyn Smith, Kev Redmond, Jordan Bartlett, Lee Kiernan, Andy Harrington.



Capital. Back (from left): Len Coles, James Farley, Chris Wishhusen, Andy Penson, Colin Burnett, Stephen Light, Anthony Palmier, Shayne Freemantle, Richie Stevens. Front: Matt Journeaux, Leigh Stevens, Adam Witt, Phil Jordan, Dave Brocksom, Nigel Hunt.



**South Coast** 



AFC Redbridge. Back (from left): Derek Biddleton, Darren Turner, John Phillips, Dean Alley, Fran Biddleton, Paul Madden, Anthony Vine, Jody Agrella, John Allen, Tony Yeates, Dave McIntosh. Front, Sean McCartney, Aaron Moore, Ross Jones, John Agrella, Levi McClean, Luke Cotter.

# PINK

# 'You cannot be serious'

John McEnroe made his Wimbledon debut 40 years ago this summer and remains one of the game's most popular players.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the American's most memorable quotes.

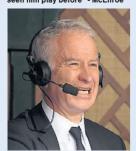
"You cannot be serious" -McEnroe's famous jibe at Wimbledon in 1981 after umpire Edward James had called his serve out.

"A scream that came straight from Queens but that has travelled very far in the years since" - McEnroe's assessment of how his most repeated yell "You cannot be serious" gained worldwide notoriety.

"Do you have any problems, other than that you're unemployed, a moron, and a dork?" - McEnroe's riposte to an unimpressed spectator.

"My greatest strength is that I have no weaknesses" - a young McEnroe

"That's one of the best sets I've seen him play, although I should preface that by saying I haven't seen him play before" - McEnroe



John McEnroe

on player Tomas Zib during commentary.

"You'll be sorry you hit me, you f\*\*\*ing communist a\*\*hole" -McEnroe's reaction to being hit by a ball against Czech player Tomas Smid in 1983.

"I want to be remembered as a great player, but I guess it will be as a player but I guess it will be as a player who got angry on a tennis court" - McEnroe's acceptance his personality might be recalled more readily than his seven grand slam titles.

"When I was eight and a half, my parents moved to a part of Queens where there was a club nearby. We joined, and if you believe in someone up above, I think I was meant to play tennis" -McEnroe on how he got into tennis in New York

"No other athlete in any sport has ever had to go through what I have to" - McEnroe lamenting in 1986 the extra attention he received.

"You can see as well as these f\*\*\*ing flowers. And they're f\*\*\*ing plastic" - McEnroe insults a line judge at the 1980 US Open.

# 3 things you can't miss in the racing week ...

GENERATION GAME

Cliffs Of Moher currently tops the betting for Saturday's Coral-Eclipse as racing fans gear up for the first clash of the generations at Sandown. The 10-furlong Group One gives the Classic team their first chance to get one over on the older horses and Aidan O'Brien's Derby second is favourite to emerge victorious. The three-year-olds dominate the early prices with Derby fourth Eminent and St James's Palace Stakes hero Barney Roy also popular choices, while the likes of Ulysses and Decorated Knight could step up to the plate for the four-year-old-plus brigade. The Eclipse always provides a fascinating insight as

to just how good the current Classic crop are.

HAYDOCK HONOURS

Haydock boasts a bumper three-day fixture this week with Saturday's Bet365 Lancashire Oaks the highlight of the fixture. Some quality fillies have used this as a springboard to better things, with 2012 winner Great Heavens memorably going on to claim the Irish Oaks. The Old Newton Cup provides admirable support to the Group Two fixture with a sizeable field the norm for this competitive event. Friday's evening meeting is also sure to be popular with music legends The Jacksons strutting their stuff after racing.

LADIES FIRST

Hayley Turner once again makes a temporary return to the saddle as she heads to Bro Park in Sweden for the Lady Jockeys' Thoroughbred World Championship on Tuesday. Turner, Sammy Jo Bell and Ana O'Brien are some of the more familiar names who will head to the Stockholm track for a one-day championship that encompasses five handicap events. North American star Chantal Sutherland, France's Maryline Eon and German ace Stefanie Hofer are other big names due to take part in an event that also features representatives from Hong Kong, Sweden, New Zealand

and Denmark.

FIXTURES (FLAT in capitals)

Monday: HAMILTON, PONTEFRACT, WINSDOR, WOLVERHAMPTON

Tuesday: BRIGHTON, CHEPSTOW, HAMILTON, Stratford Wednesday: BATH, KEMPTON, PERTH, THIRSK,

Worcester
Thursday: EPSOM, HAYDOCK, NEWBURY,

Perth, YARMOUTH Friday: BEVERLEY, CHELMSFORD, DONCAS-TER, HAYDOCK, Newton Abbot, SANDOWN Saturday: BEVERLEY, CARLISLE, HAYDOCK (ITV), LEICESTER, NOTTINGHAM, SANDOWN

Sunday: AYR, Market Rasen

# Who can step into Serena's shoes?

Wimbledon begins on Monday and Andy Murray will be bidding to defend his men's title, while Serena Williams sits this one out.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five major talking points heading into the tournament.

## WHO STEPS INTO SERENA'S SHOES?

Serena Williams is counting down the days until the birth of her first child, and in the absence of the seven-time champion the title is up for grabs. With Maria Sharapova injured and also absent, the bookmakers make Karolina Pliskova favourite.

However, the Czech has never gone beyond the second round in five previous main-draw appearances. There could be cases made both for and against most of the world's top 20. And the title may yet stay in the Williams family.

Venus Williams reached the Wimbledon semi-finals last year, and the Australian Open final in January. Perhaps the 37-year-old could scoop a sixth title.

## WILL DJOKOVIC RISE AGAIN?

Novak Djokovic came to Wimbledon last year as champion of all four grand slams, but the Serbian returns as the holder of none after a career dip that nobody saw coming.

He ditched his coaching team in May and enlisted the shortterm guidance of Andre Agassi, who once nosedived to 141st from a top-three platform before regrouping to become a grand slam master again.

If Agassi cannot lift Djokovic, then it will be a tall order for anyone, and for however long it lasts



Johanna Konta

the partnership could bring rich rewards.

With Agassi calling the shots, it should be a refreshed Djokovic bidding to put last year's shock third-round exit to Sam Querrey behind him.

CAN JOHANNA KONTA GIVE BRITAIN A WOMEN'S CHAMPION? Virginia Wade's 1977 triumph has not hung quite as heavily over British women's tennis as Fred Perry's last victory once did for the men.

But this year marks the 40th anniversary of Wade's win against Betty Stove, and it could be marked by something special. Konta, born to Hungarian parents, may once have represented Australia, but she is committed to the British cause and has become established in the world's top 10.

Twice a tournament winner in 2017 even before the grass-court season began, a first grand slam title is not such a far-fetched prospect.

## TIME FOR THE NEW GENERATION TO SHINE

Milos Raonic dazzled last year in reaching the final, but he barely qualifies as new generation.

The likes of Alexander Zverev and Nick Kyrgios fall squarely into that category though, and both possess the sharp tools to scythe through the strongest of draws.

Zverev and Kyrgios have both beaten Djokovic this season, indicating their rapid progress, and with the 'big four' now all into their thirties, the time may have arrived for a young prospect to break through.

## SPARE US ANOTHER MIDDLE SUNDAY

A wet first week at Wimbledon last year prompted play on the middle Sunday for just the fourth time. It took only 27 minutes for all 22,000 tickets to sell, but come the day there was a sense of anticlimax.

Spectators enjoying their first taste of Centre Court ensured there was a carnival atmosphere early on, but many of the smaller courts were practically deserted, which surprised some players, and the line-up was largely lacking in tennis A-listers.

It brought the tournament back onto schedule but must remain a last resort

# PINK

# Wimbledon tennis - the numbers game ...

Wimbledon 2017 gets under way on Monday, July 3.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the stats around the championships.

q

record number of singles wins, posted by Martina Navratilova.

39.000

capacity in the grounds at any one time.

31,600,000

total prize money  $(\mathfrak{L})$  for 2017 (a 12.5 per cent increase on last year).

40

the number of years since Virginia Wade won the women's singles title, and John McEnroe made his debut.

320,000

glasses of Pimm's consumed by spectators at Wimbledon 2016.

250

the number of ball boys and girls.

665

length in minutes (11 hours, 5 minutes) of the longest match in tennis history, when John Isner beat Nicolas Mahut 70-68 in the final set of their first-round match in 2010.

14.979

the number of seats on Centre Court.

1875

the year lawn tennis was introduced to the All England Croquet Club.

25

number of years since Andre Agassi won his only Wimbledon singles crown.

# You are absolute pits of the world'

Wimbledon might have a gardenparty air about it, but it is not all strawberries and cream in the

Ahead of this year's tournament, Press Association Sport looks at controversies that have flared at the All England Club.

## You know when you've been Tarango'd

Jeff Tarango's name belongs in Wimbledon folklore after his astonishing 1995 outburst against umpire Bruno Rebeuh. The Californian stormed out of his thirdround clash with German Alexander Mronz, aggrieved by several umpiring calls, telling Rebeuh: "You are the most corrupt official in the game." Uproar around Court 13 continued as Tarango's wife, Benedicte, slapped Rebeuh in the face. Tarango was banned from the following year's Wimbledon.

#### Dressed for success

Wimbledon enforces strict clothing guidelines, with a 10-point guide declaring the tennis kit must be "almost entirely white". It demands "common standards of decency" when it comes to underwear, and, although the rules have been criticised for being stuffy, they are here to stay. Even Roger Federer has to toe the line - in 2013 he was forbidden from wearing orange-soled trainers - while Eugenie Bouchard's black bra straps caused a brouhaha two years ago.

#### "You cannot be serious"

McEnroe's outburst at umpire Edward James in 1981 somehow never grows old. The New Yor-



John McEnroe

ker was incensed over a call from James in a match against Tom Gullikson. "You can't be serious!" was the famous cry. "That ball was on the line. Chalk flew up! How can you possibly call that out?" McEnroe added: "You guys are the absolute pits of the world, you know that?"

#### Gone fishing

Murphy Jensen had even his

family hypothesising that he might have been kidnapped when he failed to appear for a mixed doubles match at Wimbledon in 1995 and was defaulted. He had decided to go fishing.

#### Oh father

Few tennis parents were ever quite as volatile as Jelena Dokic's dad, Damir, who in 2000 was escorted out of Wimbledon brandishing a huge flag of St George. He had asked to borrow a journalist's mobile phone, smashed it, and screamed: "The Queen is on the side of democracy - the rest of the country is fascist." Damir was jailed in 2009 for threatening to bomb the Australian embassy in Belgrade.

#### Level terms

Wimbledon has offered equal pay to men and women since 2007, but French player Gilles Simon said in 2012 that the men deserve to earn more, and he claimed every player in the men's locker room agreed.

"My point," said Simon, "was that I have the feeling that men's tennis is actually more interesting than women's tennis." Maria Sharapova responded: "I'm sure there are a few more people that watch my matches than his."

#### Black heart

In 2013, the bitter rivalry between the two biggest names in women's tennis was exposed. Serena Williams, in a story published in Rolling Stone magazine, was quoted as taking a veiled swipe at a player she said was "with the guy with a black heart". Maria Sharapova felt she was the probable target. At the time, Sharapova was dating Bulgarian tennis star Grigor Dimitrov, who was previously close to Williams.

Speaking at Wimbledon, Sharapova made claims about Williams' private life, at a time when she was linked to coach Patrick Mouratoglou, saying: "If she wants to talk about something personal, maybe she should talk about her relationship and her boyfriend that was married and is getting a divorce and has kids."

### Guide to the Tour jerseys

The 2017 Tour de France gets under way this weekend.
Here, the Sports Pink explains the different-coloured jerseys.

#### **YELLOW**

Given to the overall race leader, namely the rider who has completed the stages so far in the shortest combined time.

The jersey is thought to date back to 1919 and takes its colour from l'Auto, the newspaper owned by race founder and sponsor Henri Desgrange, and the forerunner of today's L'Equipe. Eddy 'the Cannibal' Merckx wore yellow for a record 96 days during his career. Froome leads all active riders with 44 days

#### **GREEN**

spent in yellow.

The next most prestigious jersey is given to the leader in the points classification which rewards sprinters, the riders who can be seen barrelling to the line in a bunch finish.

During each stage, points are attributed during the intermediary sprints and at the finish. The jersey was introduced in 1953. Germany's Erik Zabel won it a record six consecutive times between 1996 and 2001. World



The yellow jersey.

champion Peter Sagan heads to the 2017 Tour looking to match that record after winning it in each of the past five editions.

#### POLKA DOT

The King of the Mountains. Like the green jersey, riders succeed in the climbers' classification by claiming points, in this case for being the first to the top of designated hills and mountains, the greatest number of points being awarded for the hardest ascents. Although the award was introduced in 1933, the distinctive jersey was not brought in until 1975. Scotland's Robert Millar was King of the Mountains in 1984, while in 2015 Chris Froome became the first rider to win the polka dot jersey and yellow jersey in the same Tour since Merckx in 1970.

#### WHITE

Given to the best-placed rider under 25 years old on January 1 of the year the Tour is ridden. The jersey was introduced in 1975. It was abandoned in 1989 but reintroduced in 1999. Britain's Adam Yates won the classification in 2016, and his twin brother Simon will target it this time around.

# PINK

# Now gloves are off ...!

The Formula One season came alive in Azerbaijan on Sunday following a frenetic race which saw four safety cars, one red flag, and an improbable winner.

Daniel Ricciardo claimed his first victory of the year after championship leader Sebastian Vettel hit Lewis Hamilton on two occasions.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at five things we learned from the eighth round of the championship in Baku.

### 1. Gloves off in title battle

Lewis Hamilton's amorous rivalry with Sebastian Vettel evaporated in an instance at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix following what can only be described as a moment of madness from the Ferrari driver. The case for Vettel's defence was sparse. Data, studied by the race stewards, proved that Hamilton did not 'brake-test' his rival - and that Vettel deliberately veered his car in the Briton's direction. After the second round of the



BAKU, AZERBAIJAN - JUNE

championship in China, Hamilton claimed he could not foresee that their friendship might derail. His mood here on Sunday night suggested otherwise. "If I had had any ill intent, in terms of my driving towards him, brake testing, or whatever it may be, I still think it's not deserving of that kind of reaction from a person you do have respect for," Hamilton said. "I need some time to reflect, but ultimately what happened was disrespectful."

### 2 So, what next for Vettel?

The FIA, Formula One's governing body, are under pressure to sanction Vettel for bringing the sport into disrepute. Vettel, who escaped punishment at last October's Mexican Grand Prix, despite telling veteran race director Charlie Whiting to "#\*\* off", now has nine points on his licence after three were added to his tally following his antics on Sunday. Vettel will be faced with a one-race ban if he reaches 12 at the Austrian Grand Prix a week on Sunday. The German did not want to apologise. He also scoffed at suggestions his reputation had heen tarnished.

continued on facing page

# Man City and Tottenham join Checkatrade



Josh Sims in Checkatrade Trophy action last season.

Manchester City and Tottenham have accepted an invitation to enter their academy sides into the 2017/18 Checkatrade Trophy- having turned down the opportunity last season.

They join Chelsea in agreeing to enter their under-23 teams alongside League One and League Two sides, a move which was implemented last year to mixed success.

Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester United have once again abstained from entering.

While fans stayed away in their droves for much of last year's competition, over a third of the EFL clubs voted to retain the format for the next two seasons with

few amendments.

Now City and Spurs will enter their own academy outfits into the group stages, which will be formed to keep travel time down for supporters and will see the 16 youth sides play all of their group games away from home.

The invitations are extended to the 16 teams who finished highest in the Premier League table last year and hold category one status. Saints have accepted.

Bournemouth, Crystal Palace, Burnley, Watford and Hull miss out as they are not classed as category one.

The 12 remaining top-flight clubs from last season, including relegated pair Middlesbrough and Sunderland, will all be involved.

So to will Championship winners Newcastle and fellow promoted side Brighton, with Reading and Fulham

completing the line-up of academy sides. Coventry beat Oxford to win last season's Checkatrade Trophy in front of 74,434 fans at Wembley.

The revamped competition came in for harsh criticism earlier in the season with sparse crowds and protests against in the involvement of the Premier League youth teams. But 66.6 per cent of League 1 and League 2 clubs voted in favour of retaining the format, rather than reverting to the previous straight KO tournament or scrapping the competition completely.

# The biggest F1 controversies

Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel were involved in an astonishing row at the Azerbaijan GP last weekend.

The drivers collided on lap 19, as Vettel ran into the back of Hamilton's car, later accusing the Briton of brake-testing him while the Safety Car led the cars around the circuit.

But Vettel's reaction was the greater controversy, as he inexplicably drove into the side of his rival's car, leading Hamilton to say the German "disgraced himself".

Here, the Sports Pink looks at on-track controversies from Formula One's past.

#### 1990 JAPANESE GP

Ayrton Senna complained that pole position was wrongly situated on the track and demanded to be moved into the racing line. When his request was rejected and he was overtaken by title rival Alain Prost at the start, Senna took out the Frenchman on the first corner to secure the world championship.

## SCHUMACHER'S CRASH-

Michael Schumacher's Benetton had suffered irreparable damage by the time it was involved in a collision with Damon Hill's Williams in the season-ending Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide in 1994. The crash forced the British driver out of the race and ensured Schumacher secured his first F1 drivers' title. Schumacher maintained it was a racing incident. Three years later Schumacher collided with another rival, Jacques Villeneuve, in a finalrace shoot-out at the European GP in Jerez. However, the Cana-



Ayrton Senna.

dian, who had been attempting to overtake Schumacher when the collision occurred, finished third to take the title while the German, whose second place in the championship was later stripped from him, was forced to retire from the race.

#### FERRARI TEAM ORDERS - PART ONE

Schumacher, acting under team orders, passed Brazilian teammate Rubens Barrichello, who clearly slowed down in order to allow the German to win the 2002 Austrian GP and claim maximum points in the drivers' championship. The German was jeered by the crowd, even when he attempted to allow Barrichello to stand on the top step of the podium at the post-race celebrations.

#### CRASHGATE

Nelson Piquet Jr revealed he had been ordered to deliberately crash during the 2009 Singapore GP to create the perfect environment for his then Renault teammate Fernando Alonso to win the race. Team managing director Flavio Briatore and chief engineer Pat Symonds both left the team in the wake of the revelations. Briatore was given an indefinite ban from F1 by world governing body the FIA. with Svmonds suspended for five years. Both later had their suspensions quashed in a French court, and Symonds recently worked for Wil-

#### FERRARI TEAM ORDERS - PART TWO

Ferrari were fined £65,000 by race stewards at the 2010 German GP after being accused of implementing a team order. Following coded messages over the team radio, Felipe Massa eventually ceded a potential victory to teammate Fernando Alonso, a move that sparked outrage at the time. Ferrari were deemed in breach of article 39.1 of the FIA 2010 sporting regulations that states 'team orders which interfere with a race result are prohibited'. In December 2010 the article was deleted from the FIA's statutes.

#### **VETTEL THE REBEL**

Sebastian Vettel apologised after blatantly disregarding Red Bull team orders to claim a controversial 2013 Malaysian GP victory. Mark Webber held sway over team-mate Vettel following the fourth and final pit stop and

# PINK

## The Tour de France - the numbers game

The 2017 Tour de France begins in Dusseldorf this weekend and concludes in Paris on July 23. Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of the numbers surrounding the race.

#### 3.540

kilometres raced in the 2017 Tour, across four countries (Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and France).

#### Nine

the number of riders in each team. A total of 198 riders are scheduled to start.

#### 2

stages in the 2017 race, across 23 days. There are two rest days.

#### 2 6 4 2

metres, the highest point of the 2017 Tour, at the summit of Col du Galibier.

#### 4/1

Team Sky have won the Tour four times in the last five years (Sir Bradley Wiggins in 2012; Chris Froome in 2013, 2015 and 2016).

#### Five

mountain-top finishes, including at La Planche des Belles Filles, where Froome won his first Tour stage and Wiggins took the yellow jersey in 2012

#### **Eight**

seconds. The narrowest winning margin in history, when Greg Le Mond won in 1989.

#### 44

days in which Froome has worn the Tour's yellow jersey.

#### Two

British winners of the polka dot jersey for best climber: Robert Millar in 1984 and Froome in 2015.

#### 34

stage wins by Eddy Merckx, the most in Tour history. Mark Cavendish has 30

#### Five

times Cavendish has won four or more stages. He has started 10 Tours, completing six, winning four stages (2008, 2016), six (2009), five (2010, 2011), three (2012), two (2013) and one (2015).

# Stroll-ing to a record ...

from facing page

## 3. Stroll breaks podium record

Lance Stroll was an 18-year-old under pressure following a difficult start to his life in the sport. But after scoring the first points of his career at his home race in Canada a fortnight ago, Stroll followed it up with his very first podium here in Baku.

Stroll kept his head, and was on course to finish second, only for Valtteri Bottas to pip him on the line. It did little to dampen Stroll's mood. At 18 years and 239 days, he is the youngest rookie to step on the podium, and the first Canadian since Jacques Villeneuve 16 years ago.

## 4. Some good (ish) news for McLaren

Fernando Alonso recorded both his and McLaren's first points of the season after he finished ninth. But the 35-year-old Spaniard, who



**Lance Stroll** 

started 19th following a series of grid penalties, believes he could have won. Alonso, out of contract at the end of the year, was as high

as fifth during the race.

He said: "I think we could have fought for a podium finish today and perhaps even the victory. We missed out on further opportunities because we weren't quick enough in the race and couldn't hold on to that position."

## 5. Force India cars collide again

Force India team-mates Sergio Perez and Esteban Ocon crashed into each other for the second successive race. Ocon attempted to pass Perez at the re-start, but the pair banged wheels. Given how the race unfolded, it is not inconceivable that Force India could have claimed their very first victory.

victory.
As it was, Perez retired, while
Ocon limped home in sixth. They
were running in fourth and fifth at
the time of the incident. "It was
just over-aggressive," said Perez.
"In all my career I've had teammates who have been hard, but
given enough room. What
happened is totally unacceptable
for the team."

# Vettel-a history of F1 controversy

Championship leader Sebastian Vettel drove into Lewis Hamilton during Sunday's chaotic Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

It is not the first time the 29-yearold German has been accused of unsporting behaviour in his career. Here, the Sports Pink looks back at a number of flashpoints.

#### 2010

Vettel and his Red Bull team-mate Mark Webber crashed at the 2010 Turkish Grand Prix despite being on course for a one-two finish.

Vettel attempted to pass Webber on the inside before cutting back across his Australian team-mate. The German spun out of the race before launching an angry tirade over the team radio: "What the f\*\*\* are we doing here? We are working to win the world championship for f\*\*\* sake. What a stupid action. I am going home."

Vettel emerged from his car pointing to his head in a fashion which suggested he thought Webber, who finished third, was crazy.

#### 2013

The German was then accused of disobeying a direct team order to win in Malaysia three years later. Webber led the race from Vettel as both drivers were given the "Multi 21" command from their Red Bull team.

The instruction meant that Webber, in car number two, would lead home Vettel, in the number one Red Bull.

Webber subsequently turned down his engine only for Vettel to ignore the order and swoop past his team-mate to win the race.

Webber was furious, but Vettel, although apologetic at first, later denied any wrong-doing.

#### 2016

Vettel joined Ferrari ahead of the 2015 campaign and won three grands prix in his first year. But



Sebastian Vettel, right, with Lewis Hamilton.

the ensuing season was troubled for both him and the Italian team as they struggled for form. Vettel turned the air blue at the

Vettel turned the air blue at the Russian GP after Daniil Kvyat, then driving for Vettel's former team Red Bull, took him out of the race.

The German swore six times inside just 11 seconds during a radio transmission, which although it was censored, was played to millions of fans around the world.

"F\*\*\* sake," Vettel yelled. "Who the f\*\*\*? I am out. Crashed! Somebody hit me in the f\*\*\*\*\* rear at Turn Two and then somebody hit me in the f\*\*\*\*\* rear at Turn Three. For f\*\*\* sake. Honestly. What the f\*\*\* are we doing here?"

#### 2016

The Ferrari driver was then warned about his future conduct

following another expletive-laden outburst, this time at the Mexican Grand Prix, in which he told race director Charlie Whiting to "f\*\* off".

Vettel swore repeatedly at Whiting and Max Verstappen over the team radio as he dramatically lost his cool when he clashed with the Dutchman in the closing stages of

46 Piling Saturday, July 1, 2017



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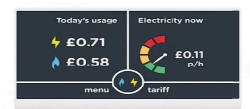


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# $\mathbf{PINK}$

## Test doubts - and potential reinforcements ...



James Anderson

England are set to announce their first Test squad of the summer on Saturday, to play South Africa at Lord's next Thursday, with significant question marks over the fitness and make up of their howling attack

and make-up of their bowling attack.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the doubts
and some possible reinforcements.

#### TREATMENT ROOM

JAKE BALL - The Nottinghamshire seamer has been ruled out of the Royal London One-Day Cup final, and the first Proteas clash, after suffering a knee strain in this week's round of day/night Championship matches. The 26-year-old was inked in for a squad place and would have been pushing for a fourth Test cap.

CHRIS WOAKES - Probably England's form bowler over the past 18 months across all formats, the Warwickshire man picked up a side strain in the Champions Trophy opener against Bangladesh and is still in recovery. Side issues are a notoriously thorny issue for fast men and England will treat him with kid

gloves as they seek to avoid any recurrence.

STUART BROAD - England's trusted newball general has been sidelined due to a problem with his left heel. The injury was not initially thought to be a worry but scans have proved inconclusive and the 31-year-old has been undergoing fitness tests at Lord's in a bid to be fit for both Nottinghamshire's final appearance and the first Investec Test. Posting on Twitter about his hopes of getting the green light he said: "desperate is an

BEN STOKES - The all-action all-rounder has been curbed somewhat in recent months by a knee injury, meaning he has not always been able to perform a full bowling role for the one-day side. He is available for selection, and the combination of an injection and a conditioning programme should help, but there will be a natural aversion to overloading such a key performer.

JAMES ANDERSON AND MARK WOOD

At present these two are the fittest of England's frontline options and can all but guarantee their participation at the home of cricket. But Anderson is touching 35 and Wood's fitness record over several years, including this winter, has been poor. The prospect of either breaking down mid-match is far from impossible.

#### **NEXT IN LINE**

STEVEN FINN - With 36 Tests and 125 wickets under his belt, the Middlesex man offers experience and proven pedigree. But his stock has been on the wane for some time and his last Test appearance in Dhaka last October was not his finest hour. The selectors may be moving on.

TOBY ROLAND-JONES - Takes the new ball at Middlesex ahead of Finn and knows Lord's like the back of his hand. Has been on the fringes of the international scene for some time and, though at 29 he is far from a rookie prospect, England were interested enough to blood him in the 50-over side in May.

#### England v South Africa in numbers

As England prepare to begin their four-Test series against South Africa next Thursday, the Sports Pink previews the clash in numbers.

1- home Test series won by England against South Africa since the latter's readmission to Test cricket in 1991. That came in 1998, with defeats in 2008 and 2012. They have, though, won two series away to the Proteas in that time.

14-12 - South Africa hold the win-loss advantage over England since readmission, with 17 draws.

2-1 - England's winning margin in both the one-day and Twenty20 international series on this Proteas tour, either side of the Champions Trophy.

18 - points gap between the teams in the ICC Test rankings - South Africa are second on 117, England fourth on 99. A 4-0 series win, however unlikely, would lift England ahead of their visitors while defeat by a margin of at least two Tests would drop them behind New Zealand into fifth.

1,574 - South Africa's Hashim Amla leads all active players in runs in Tests between the two sides. Compatriot Bruce Mitchell holds the all-time record with 2,732.

64 - England's James Anderson is the leading active wicket-taker, 27 adrift of the overall record held by South Africa's Shaun Pollock.

198 - days since England's last Test action, with their series against India having finished on December 20.

143 - days since Joe Root was named as England's Test captain, succeeding Alastair

53 - Tests played by Root to date and also, to the nearest run, his batting average

3 - uncapped Test players in the South Africa squad for the series - Heino Kuhn, Andile Phehlukwayo and Aiden Markram.

33 - Kuhn's age.

18 - South Africa's highest opening partnership in their three-Test series against New Zealand in March - costing Stephen Cook his place and handing Kuhn his opportunity.

106 - Tests played by South Africa's AB de Villiers, who is might the series and reportedly contemplating retirement from the five-day format

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# Root at centre of Test talking points

England return to Test action next week when they start their four-match series against South Africa at Lord's.

Joe Root takes charge of the Test side for the first time since replacing Alastair Cook as skipper, and here the Sports Pink looks at the major talking points from the series against the Proteas.

#### **ROOT AND BRANCH**

What should Joe do? He can take it slow and steady, ease his way into one of sport's most taxing jobs and take a measured view of how many more overs there will be together over the coming years in England's record-breaking pace pair James Anderson and Stuart Broad. Alternatively, he can take a view, make a statement of intent, and begin sowing the seeds for change. England are approaching transition, with new talent pressing claims, but it does not necessarily need to kick in concurrently with the introduction of a new captain. The older guard can surely provide both runs and wickets which Root will need and further change will come soon enough, without making it

#### PROTEAS WILTING?

In the heavyweight absences of AB de Villiers and Dale Steyn, it is easy to portray a tourist lineup short of its habitual firepower. Coach Russell Domingo may be embarking on his final series, and his hesitation in reapplying for his own job is hardly a reassuring



New England Test captain Joe Root.

backdrop. All of the above hints at a collective vulnerability, as do South Africa's flaky limited-overs campaigns this summer. With the ball especially, though, they still have players who can pose England major problems.

#### **NO MORE CHEEKY**

#### CHAPPIE?

Will there be a metamorphosis in the pitch and press-conference persona of England's new captain? Root has made clear he wants his team to play with a smile but grit too. The cheeky chap's personality has helped to make him the cricketer he is, and he will be unwilling and almost certainly unwise to forsake it. As leader, however, he may just have to tone the act down a smidgen.

#### COOK'S TURN TO SERVE AGAIN

It was not difficult to identify a little weariness in Cook towards the end of his record tenure as captain. He himself admitted on the day of his resignation in February that his captaincy had run its course, and England needed a new voice. That is not to say his will remain anything but highly significant too, as a much-needed ally for the new main man, and Cook faces a balancing act between stepping aside generously but still being on hand with advice and encouragement. England cannot afford him to simply let his bat do the talking.

#### LONG WAIT

Root is not the only one who has had to put his Test plans on hold for the past six months. England have not been in action since the innings hammering in Chennai just before Christmas which concluded their 4-0 defeat in India. It should be easy enough to cast aside the ravages of the sub-continent for a very different examination of skills to come. Even so, getting back on the horse is never the easiest manoeuvre after setback or inactivity - in this case both, with a new leader in the saddle for good measure too.